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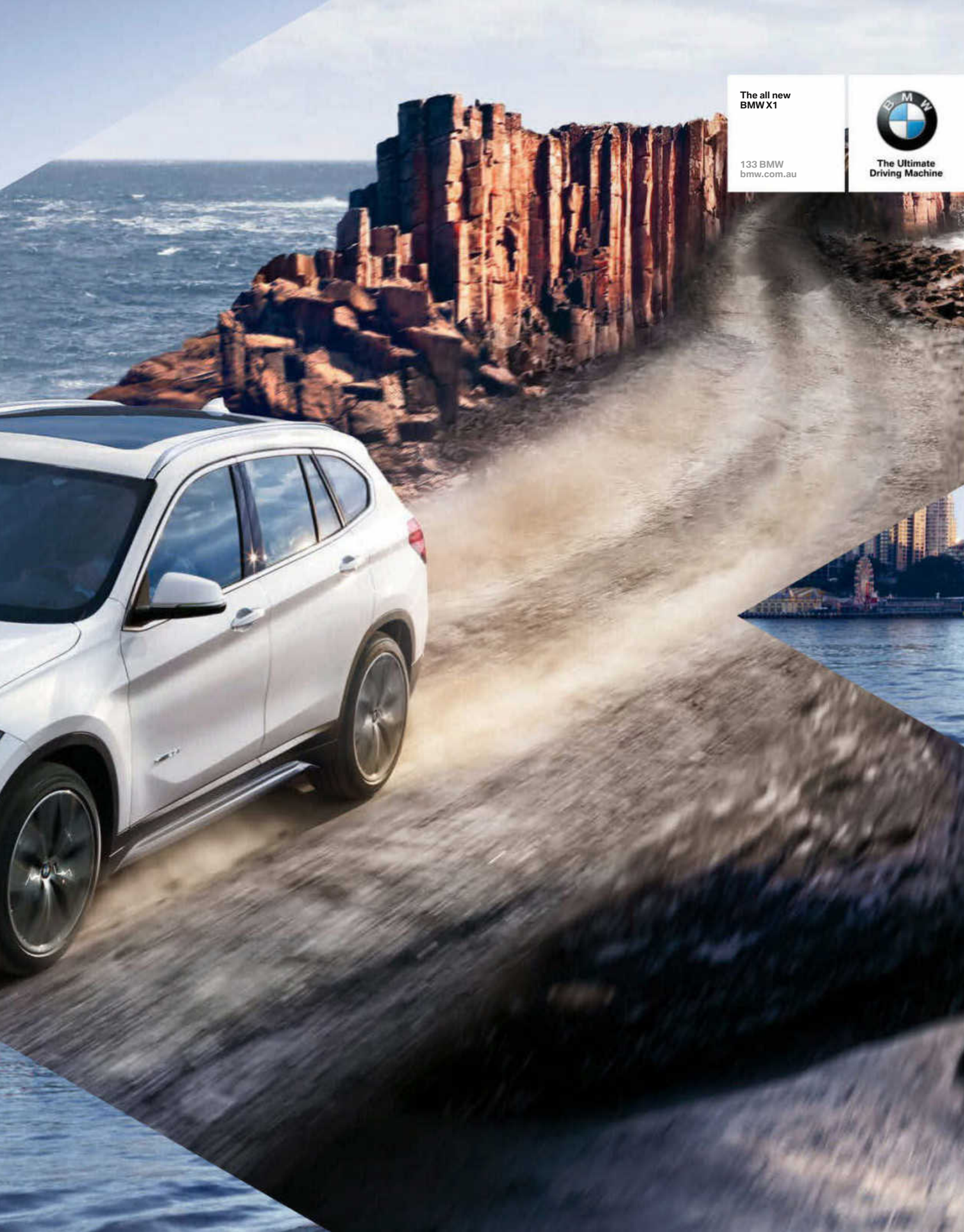
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A Miele Steam Oven's unique ability to whip up multiple dishes, without transfer of flavour, while retaining natural taste, texture and goodness, has already inspired Shannon Bennett to create a menu of amazingly innovative dishes, such as Steamed Asian Chicken... cooked simultaneously with fabulous desserts. And the new Miele Pressure Steam Oven, which can reduce cooking time by half, has this seriously busy chef very excited indeed. For flexibility and creativity, anyone who loves authentic food, perfectly cooked, will see a Miele Steam Oven as a necessity in their kitchen too.

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Pictured: Miele Steam Combination Oven (DGC 6800 XL).

Miele

IMMER BESSER


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Pictured the ILVE Majestic M 150 FDMP in matt black.



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Giovanni Pilu,
Head Chef and owner,
Pilu at Freshwater, Sydney.

Renowned Sydney chef Giovanni Pilu specialises in regional Italian cuisine. In fact, he's passionate about it. Just as passionate as he is about his new ILVE cooker at home. Apart from the high powered brass burners for consistent high heat, it is qualities like the distinct European styling and the bespoke craftsmanship that get him excited.
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KITCHEN APPLIANCES
HANDMADE IN ITALY

MARCH

HOUSE OF IDEAS

25+ pages of kitchens to inspire and delight

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Photograph by Maree Homer (this page).

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Photograph (Lisa) by Darren McDonald.

A HOME OF OUR OWN

Hmmm, how to kick off a letter I've been dreaming of writing for months… This issue, quite simply, is full of promise. This one's for anybody who's ever dreamt of building their own home; who has whiled away idle moments wondering how it might look, or doodled the design on the back of an envelope to give it some form.

After some years at the helm of this great magazine, it occurred to me that *H&G* should perhaps build a home. And why not? With a rich and well-documented heritage founded on the chronicling of innovative design, years of publishing exemplary home projects, plans, and even DIY instructions to inspire good outcomes for readers, it seems logical that *Australian House & Garden* should have a go at creating a home for contemporary times: an ideal family house.

Even the most tantalising ideas take time to come to fruition. But I'm delighted to announce that, with the support of an enthusiastic and equally committed commercial partner in Mirvac, we are kicking off arguably the most exciting year of *H&G*'s 68-year existence with a design competition to tease out a blueprint for a fabulous, forward-looking home.

All the competition details can be found in our story on page 53, along with expert comment on the housing situation today. Entry is not restricted to design professionals, so if you're a creative thinker with a vision, this is your big chance.

Naturally, *H&G* will report on the action every month, and you can read updates between issues at our website: www.myidealhouse.com.au. You can also take part in polls and product giveaways and have your say along the way. The My Ideal House project will form a how-to guide for any potential home builder, renovator or dreamer seeking inspiration and expert advice.

But for now, pick up a pen, log on to a computer, and start imagining what your ideal house would be like. Dreaming is free – and it just may earn you $25,000.

Lisa

With thanks to our key partners:

mirvac smeg hebel

CONTRIBUTORS



SARAH MALONEY
Styling assistant
Sarah keeps the *H&G* style team happy and humming. This month she assisted senior stylist Ashley Pratt on the divine children's rooms shoot (page 35), and her daughter, Ariella, also pops up as one of the child models. "Ashley has incredible taste. Seeing her ideas come to life in the studio was really exciting," she says.



DEBORAH GRANT
Writer
Deborah's passion for houses began at a young age. "When I turned 13 my dad took me to look at project homes as a birthday treat," she says. "Now I'm a writer and interior designer, I get to indulge my two loves." Her story (page 82) details the inspirational transformation of a flooded home.

YOUR *H&G*

Frequent travel has left me little time for home decorating in recent years. What a treat, then, to settle down with a cup of tea and February H&G. *So this is what I've been missing! Particularly appealing were the light-filled interiors of your featured homes, and the way they incorporate garden views and links to outdoor areas. This seems to perfectly reflect our Australian climate and lifestyle. I'm looking forward to future issues, while this one's on its way to a friend shivering through a European winter.*
Margaret Cameron, Floreat, WA

Career path

Picking up my December issue of *H&G* from the letterbox, I was wistfully reflecting on how I'd let another year slip by without pursuing my creative passions. Feeling unfulfilled, I flicked through your pages and stumbled across an advertisement for Mercer School of Interior Design. I had been waiting all my life for that 'A ha!' moment and there it was, as clear as day, on the page in front of me. Right there and then, I decided that I'm going to be an interior designer. This is the creative direction I've been dreaming about. My husband is studying furniture design and woodworking, so it seems like a match made in heaven. Thank you, *H&G*, for always inspiring me. I'm now eagerly waiting to start my Diploma of Interior Design and Decoration and I'm looking forward to a bright, fulfilling future.
Jessica Flood, Currans Hill, NSW

Sweet memories

My beloved father, our family's galaktoboureko-maker extraordinaire, passed away just before Christmas. Needless to say, there was none at our Christmas table. My grieving daughter vowed never to eat it again. So when I came across the galaktoboureko recipe in your Greek feast (February), at first it brought tears to my eyes. But then it made me determined that, yes, we will serve it again next Christmas. I think my dad would be chuffed.
Angela Balafas, Croydon Park, NSW

Summer refresh

I can't bear to throw out my beautiful *H&G* magazines, so I decided to take some older issues away with me to our beach house. I thoroughly enjoyed flicking through them again and found even more great renovation ideas and recipes to try. Thanks for a very relaxing and productive summer.
Linda Marshall, Hampton, Victoria



WRITE IN TO WIN

The author of every letter published receives $50. Our favourite also wins a great prize. This month, Margaret Cameron wins a queen-size Nara bamboo/cotton sheet set, valued at $150, from Linen House; www.linenhouse.com.au. Email your letter to h&g@bauer-media.com.au with your full name and address or post to Your *H&G*, PO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028.



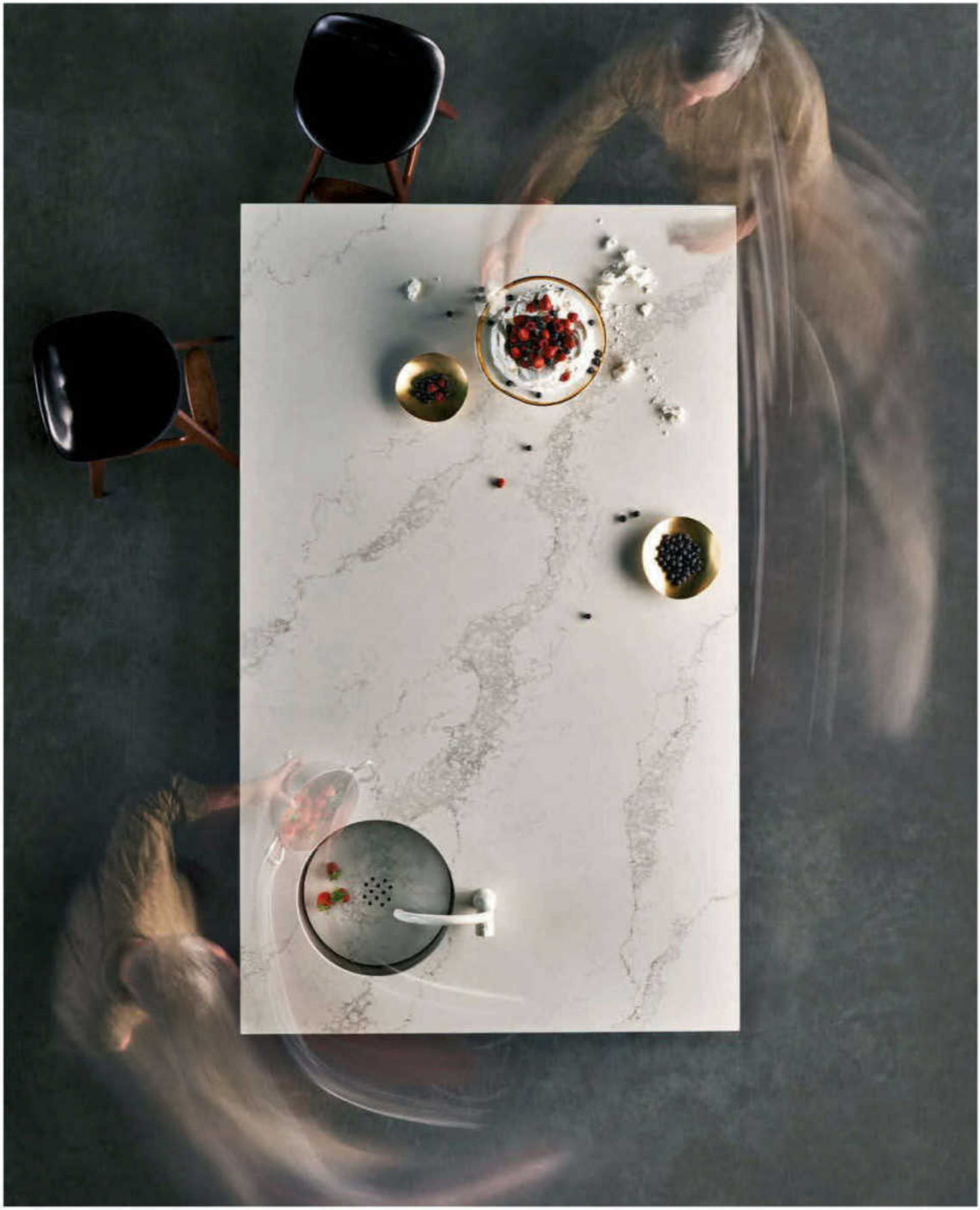
FLOWER OF THE MONTH

VERONICA

Colours White, pink, violet and shades of purple-blue.
Shape Upright, spike-like flowerheads bearing masses of long-blooming flowers on fine stems with thin, rounded leaves.
Look for Fresh, clean green foliage on the stems, with tiny flowers beginning to open at the base of the flowerhead. "The other two-thirds of the florets should be yet to open," says Melbourne florist Jess Heinjus, owner of Ivy & Eve Flowers. "The flowers should be vibrant in colour."
Best displayed "For a whimsical, vintage-style display, mix veronica with other seasonal blooms in a mason jar or an old bottle or tin," says Jess. "For a contemporary look, use them en masse in a small vessel or in a cluster of vases of various sizes."
Ivy & Eve Flowers, South Melbourne, Victoria; (03) 9696 5469 or www.ivyandeve.com.au.
Check out Jess's floral display using veronica on our Pinterest page in March.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Illustration by Allison Langton.


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the palette

One of Australia's greatest 20th-century painters, Grace Cossington Smith was hugely inspired by her garden in Sydney's Turramurra.* Trees *(circa 1927), is part of the late artist's experimentation with modernism, a kaleidoscope of colours and shapes that informs our March palette.



H&G INSPIRED BY

COLOUR CODE

Taubmans Stormy Seas

Bristol Violet Prism

Dulux Watchet

INSPIRED BUYS *Trees* oil on plywood **artwork** (88.5x72cm) by Grace Cossington Smith, Newcastle Art Gallery collection. Boubou cotton-blend **cushion cover** in jade (45x35cm), $65, Citta Design; www.cittadesign.com. Falling Fan Aqua cotton **cushion** (45x45cm), $45, One Duck Two; www.oneducktwo.com.au. Crosula **occasional chair**, $495, Weylandts; www.weylandts.com.au. Martini two-tone cast-aluminium **side table** in oregano and antique brass, $199, West Elm; www.westelm.com.au.



Artwork purchased with assistance from the Art Gallery and Conservatorium Committee 1967. Newcastle Art Gallery collection. Copyright Estate of Grace Cossington Smith.

PARADISE FOUND

Celebrity interior designer and TV renovation judge Darren Palmer works his magic off the screen to create a dreamy, durable Sydney family home.

STORY **ALAANA COBON** / STYLING **ASHLEY PRATT** / PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**





The third bedroom is currently set up as another retreat space, anchored by a Hyam rug that is part of Darren's range for Carpet Court. Plush linen sofas, Urban Couture Design+Homewares. Coffee table, Globe West. Side table, Boyd Blue. Lamp, West Elm. Pendant light, Cromwell. Artwork by Megan Weston. **OPPOSITE /** The courtyard is now a place that Darren finds himself drawn to. "It was a no-go zone before, but now it begs you to lie on the sofa and relax," he says. Reef 3-seater sofa and Granada grey nesting tables, Globe West. Outdoor cushions, Pottery Barn. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.





The 1.5m-diameter table, from Boyd Blue, had to withstand Brutus the British bulldog as a pup; his bite marks add to its character. The eye-catching Tilda chandelier is from Arteriors. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

A well-timed conversation with friends while searching for a new home led interior designer and Nine Network's *The Block* judge, Darren Palmer, and his husband Olivier Duvillard, to a city-fringe neighbourhood and a speedy private sale.

"It's in a quiet cul-de-sac lined with jacarandas and other big, beautiful trees, so it feels like a suburban street – but the city is right next door," says Darren. "It's a street where children are able to play in the middle of the road."

This community atmosphere was an important selling point for the couple, particularly with six-year-old son Hugo in the mix. "We know half the people in the street and they have Christmas parties and dress the street for Halloween, they go the whole nine yards. It's a great place for kids to grow up; it has a lovely feel."

An equally impressive drawcard was the freestanding, three-bedroom house built in the early 1900s, which had beautiful heritage features, windows on three sides and no common walls.

"It felt like home from the moment the keys were in hand," says Darren. "It needed some work, but we were so happy to be moving in. We moved our furniture in on the Friday and had Olivier's 40th on the Saturday night," says Darren. "It was full on, but it was a great way to 'warm' the house."

Renovations began in early 2015. "I had thought about it for more than a year and let the ideas evolve. There were iterations of the design that were more comprehensive and would have required changing the footprint and spending a lot more money than we did," says Darren. In hindsight, he says he's glad they avoided that. "We removed the kitchen, bathroom and ▶



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE BOTTOM / Remote-operated skylights from Velux let in northern light and can be opened for airflow or closed off with blinds. Screen from Outdeco. Breakfast bar finished in a matt thermolaminate in Stone Grey from Sydney Kitchens. Handles, Overstock. Stools, Soundslike Home. Benchtop in Caesarstone Calacatta Nuvo. Taps, Astra Walker Icon in Aged Brass.
OPPOSITE TOP / The tan leather ottoman from Globe West and a black table lamp add a gentlemanly feel. The Camerich sofa, with removable cover, is perfect for family life. Assos rug from Darren's Carpet Court range. Artworks by Mark Tipple (left) and McLean Edwards. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



◀ almost every internal surface except for the original heritage inclusions, like the skirtings, doors and ceilings in the two front rooms."

The existing pine floorboards were stained in Bona Naturale finish to lighten and soften their colour and texture, and travertine was laid in a French pattern through the kitchen, dining and courtyard, ensuring a cohesive transition.

When it came to vitality, the biggest change in the home was the elevation of natural light and airflow. "I opened up the rear exterior wall by replacing a window with a wall of bifold doors," says Darren. Strategically placed mirrors on the courtyard's rear wall bounce light inside, and a wall between the dining and living rooms was removed to encourage air and light to flow freely.

"The lighting is one of the things I love most in the house," says Darren. "The breakfast bar has a lovely brass and glass three-shaded pendant chosen by Olivier. The pendant light in the dining room is one of *my* favourites of the project – it's made of sticks and is really unusual."

The interior balances contemporary lifestyle needs with Darren's love of classic American homes, which he says "worked perfectly with the sweetness of the house". Panelled wall detailing, coffered ceilings and a traditional colour palette create harmony. Carefully chosen furniture and art – big in scale and colour – rounds out a lovely, highly personal home that the master of renovation says is also practical. "I like to change everything every time I move houses. I design a place for everything ahead of time, and look for every opportunity for extra storage," says Darren.

Time will tell what he has in store for his new family home at Bondi Beach... ▶





To see a video tour of Darren's home, go to realestate.com.au/blog





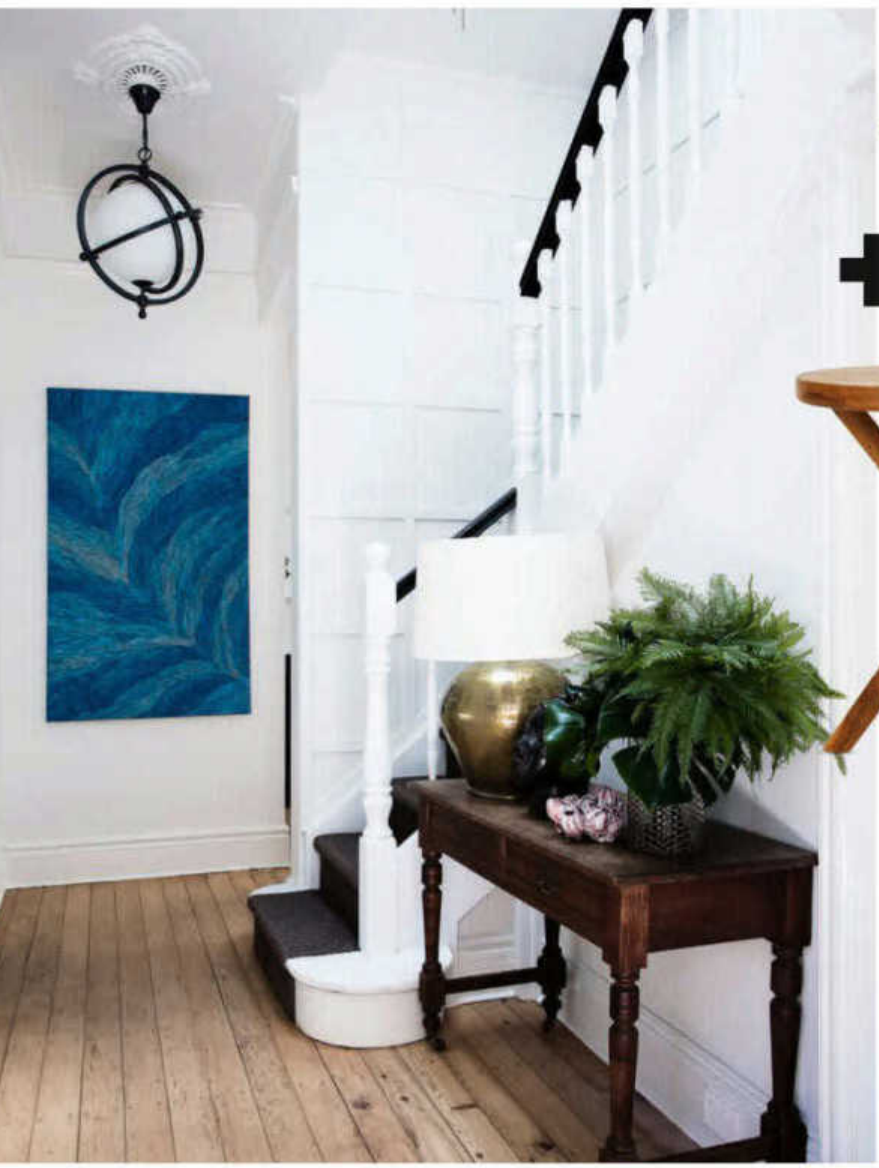


'I design a place for everything ahead of time, and look for every opportunity for extra storage.'
Darren Palmer

◀ **ABOVE AND RIGHT /** Touchstone Grey tiles from Beaumont Tiles are laid in a herringbone pattern for interest. "The bathtub is a necessity if you have dogs and children, so that was the starting point for the design," says Darren. It was purchased from Grays Online. Vanity, The Vanity Factory. Towel rail and taps, Astra Walker.
ABOVE RIGHT / The wall is painted in Dulux Palmer, a coincidence not lost on Darren. The Dorothy Napangardi artwork is a beautiful touchpoint. Ikea bed and bedside table. Table lamp, Freedom.
OPPOSITE / Darren sought an opulent look for the main bedroom. Grasscloth wallpaper from Boyd Blue is the backdrop to the studded bedhead from Horgans and the Nailhead bedside table from West Elm. The legs were cut from Koppang drawers so they'd fit under the windowsill. *Taupe Foliage I* print, Designer Boys. Velvet bedding and blush throw, West Elm. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186. ▶

look we love

With lovely architectural details to build on, Darren has worked a neutral palette to the max then introduced colour and texture through timber, art and soft furnishings. Eye-catching lighting adds drama and foliage plants are placed throughout the home.

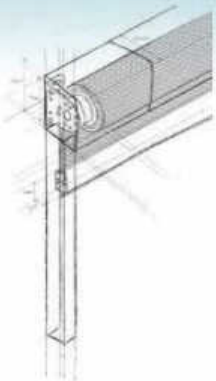




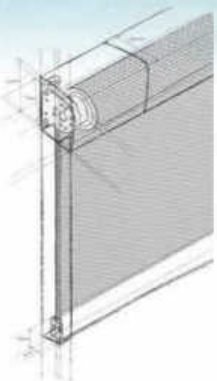
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Arteriors Tilda timber **chandelier**, $2395, Boyd Blue; www.boydblue.com. Hammer & Thread Diaz wool **rug** (160x230cm), $999, Upcycle Studio; www.upcyclestudio.com.au. Bronte linen **armchair** in stone, $1495, Urban Couture; www.urbancouture.com.au. Cotton velvet **cushion cover** in Blush, $45, Citta Design; www.cittadesign.com. SOH Melbourne Fig Tree brass **candle**, $65, Down That Little Lane; www.downthatlittlelane.com.au. Tripod teak **side table**, $360, Fenton & Fenton; www.fentonandfenton.com.au. Pond faux **fern**, $50, Rogue; www.roguehome.com.au. H&G

Produced by Ashley Pratt.





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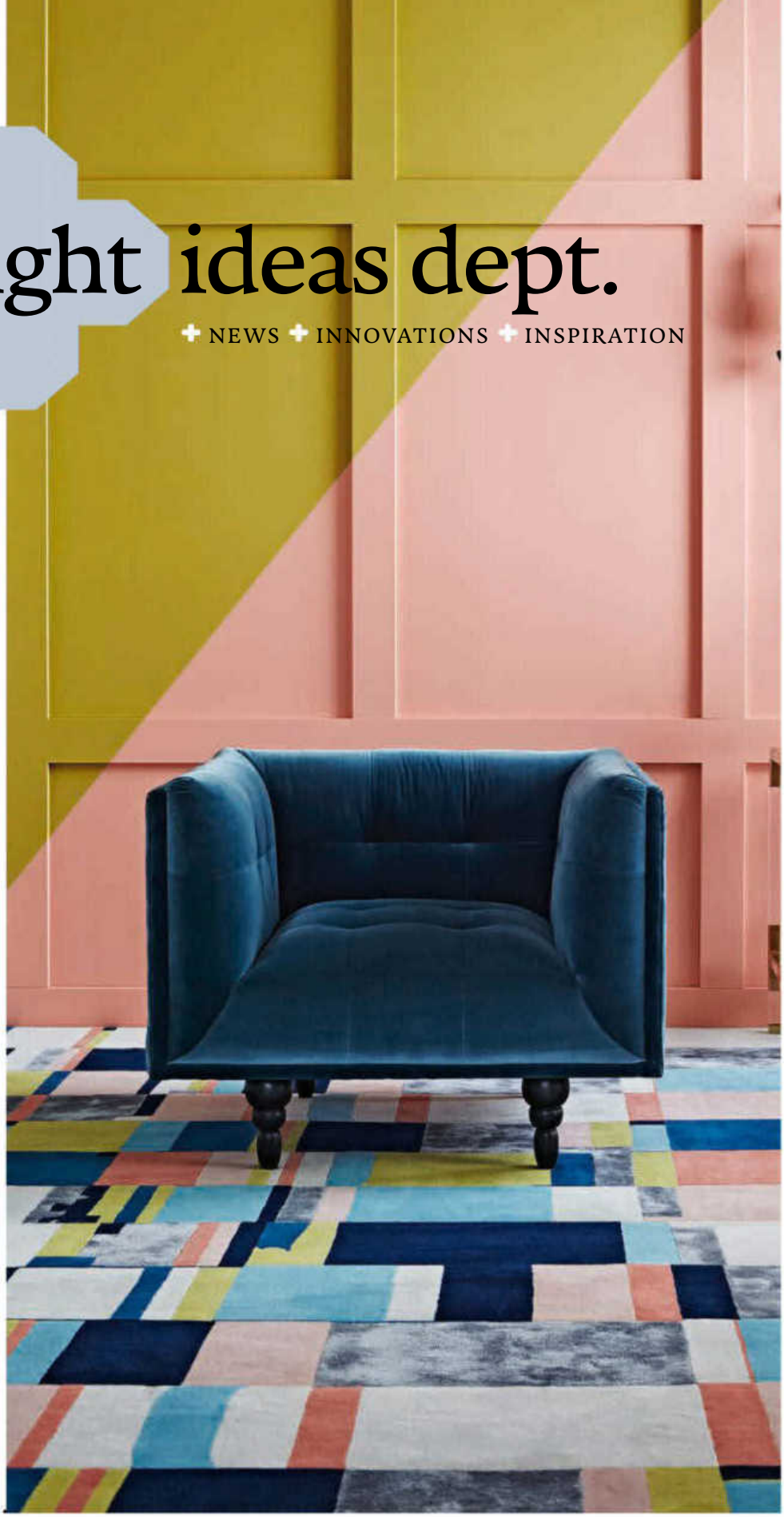
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NEWS + INNOVATIONS + INSPIRATION



PALETTE PLEASERS

Three heritage-inspired hues take top billing in Dulux's autumn trends palette. Pickled and Pretty Primrose (both shown on the wall at right) are at once warm and vibrant, while Loose Leather (below) is supremely earthy. "These are strong colours," says Dulux colour expert Andrea Lucena-Orr. "Don't be afraid to add darker hues such as these into your home. Their warmth will make any space feel inviting and snug. Rich blues and indigos work especially well with this palette." $46/L; www.dulux.com.au.



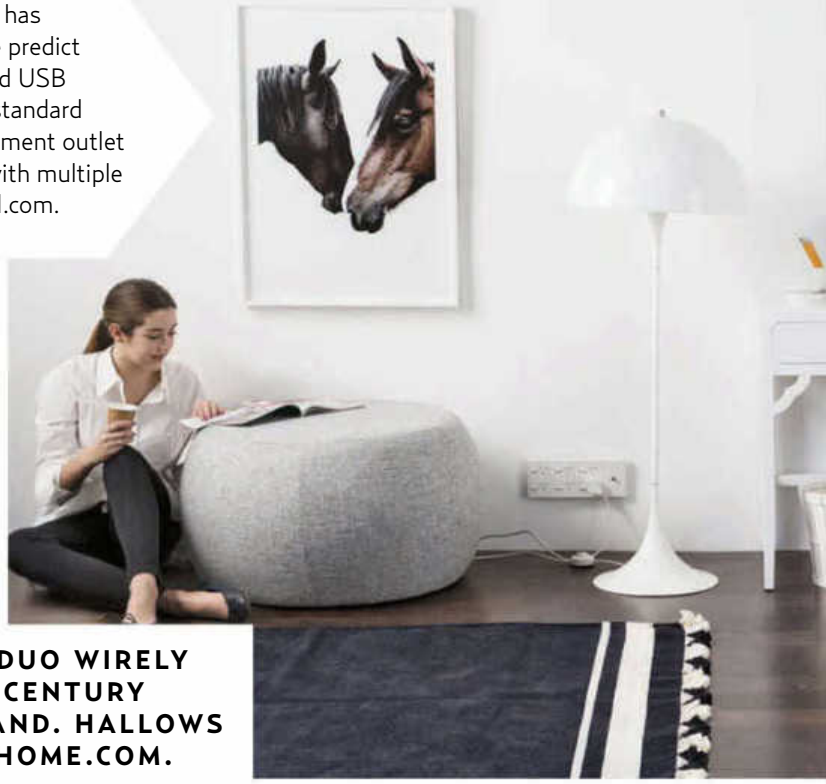
Produced by Sarah Pickette. Photograph by Lisa Cohen.



Charge on Now the average home has nine internet-connected devices we predict Clipsal's Saturn Zen Smart Shelf and USB Charger (left), $153, will soon be a standard inclusion in kitchens. The Powertainment outlet (right), $172, may prove handy too, with multiple power, TV and data points. www.clipsal.com.







ON THE SHELF FROM MELBOURNE DESIGN DUO WIRELY COMES A CLEVER NEW TAKE ON THAT MID-CENTURY HOUSEHOLD STAPLE, THE WIRE PLANT STAND. HALLOWS PLANT SHELF (ABOVE) $90/EACH; WIRELYHOME.COM.



WEAVING ITS MAGIC

Rug purveyor Armadillo&Co has added a beautiful textured weave, Sherpa, to its Earth Collection. "Sherpa's pronounced peaks and valleys feel wonderful underfoot," says co-founder Jodie Fried. Made from wool-viscose, the rugs start at $1080 (1.7x2.4m) and come in Sand (left and inset), Charcoal (right inset) and Pumice. www.armadillo-co.com.

Baker's delight

Here's a smart way to maximise benchtop space in your next baking session. The Tiered Folding Baker's Rack, $34, from Williams-Sonoma folds flat for easy storage. Deceptively strong, each tier can hold up to 4.5kg when in use, so you can even cool quiches and casseroles on it. www.williams-sonoma.com.au.





3 OF THE BEST

Smart new **gadgets designed to search, secure and amuse.**

1 Here Rover ... Wistiki by Starck Found You Aha! sends signals from a collar to your smartphone to help you find lost pets. Available for pre-order via www.indiegogo.com.

2 Keys are so last century The Australian-designed Dog & Bone LockSmart padlock can be unlocked via your smartphone. $128; www.dogandbonecases.com.

3 See the world as your pet does Eyenimal Petcam, $140, attaches to a pet's collar to give you a new view on life. www.petinnovations.com.au.



Howling success ***We're smitten with this stylish Howly dog bed from South Korean brand Howlpot. Gorgeous in their simplicity, the beds are the product of a design ethos that maintains pets should enjoy the same design excellence as their humans. About $290; www.howlpot.com.***



TAKE A SEAT QUICK-DRY FOAM AND ROBUST OUTDOOR FABRICS MAKE THE MALUA 3.5-SEATER OUTDOOR LOUNGE (BELOW), $3799, A VERY ENTICING PROPOSITION. WWW.ECOOUTDOOR.COM.AU.



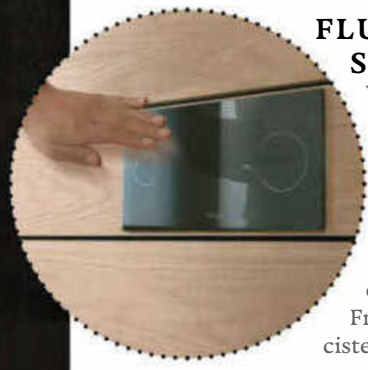
Sleep easy You may know Jardan for its beautiful, sustainable furniture. The Australian company has now added bedlinen to the mix. The four new collections include stonewash bedlinen (left) and super-soft Japanese-denim pillowcases, as well as Italian waffle linen and organic-cotton jersey quilt covers. Prices start at $70/pillowcase set; www.jardan.com.au.

Price conversions are approximate and are correct at time of printing.





Derring do The spectacularly crafted Derring Wading Pool basin from Kohler will delight you daily. Available from March 1, each piece is handmade and features a distinctive rutile mineral glaze. $1100/449mm diameter basin; www.kohler.com.au.



FLUSH WITH SUCCESS

You've seen it at airports and shopping centres, and now the no-touch flush is being embraced within the home. With a mere wave of the hand, the Viega More 100 touchless plate activates a connected in-wall cistern. From $2430 (for flush plate and cistern); www.viega.com.au.

Back in black *Rogerseller's popular range of Strap bathroom accessories has recently expanded to include a matt-black finish in sleek geometric designs. Priced from $80/robe hook; www.rogerseller.com.au.*

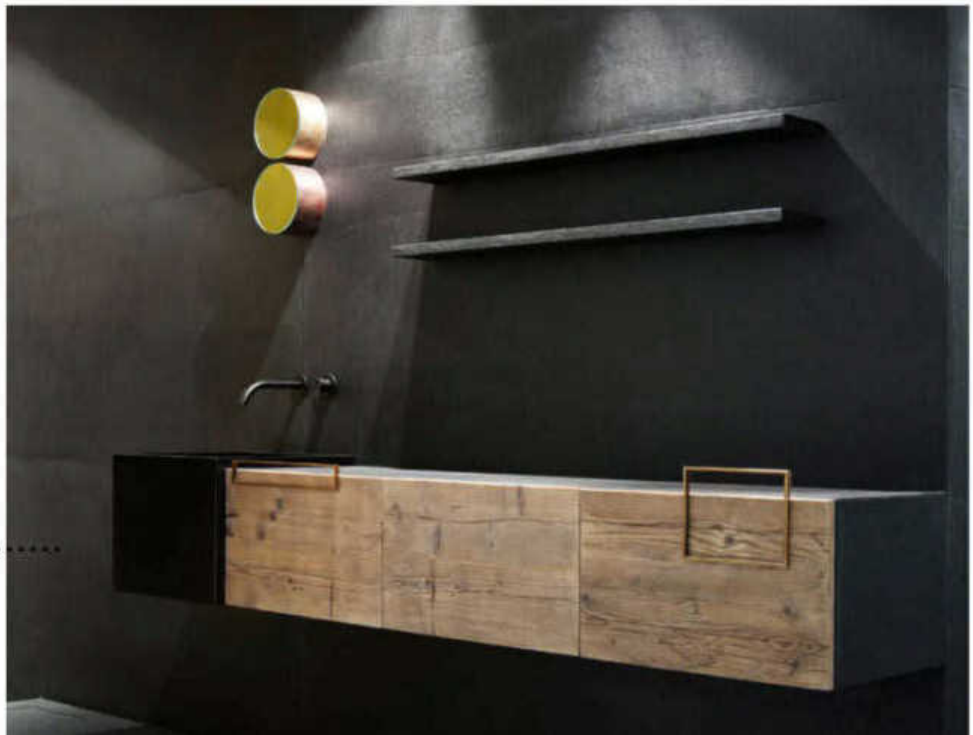


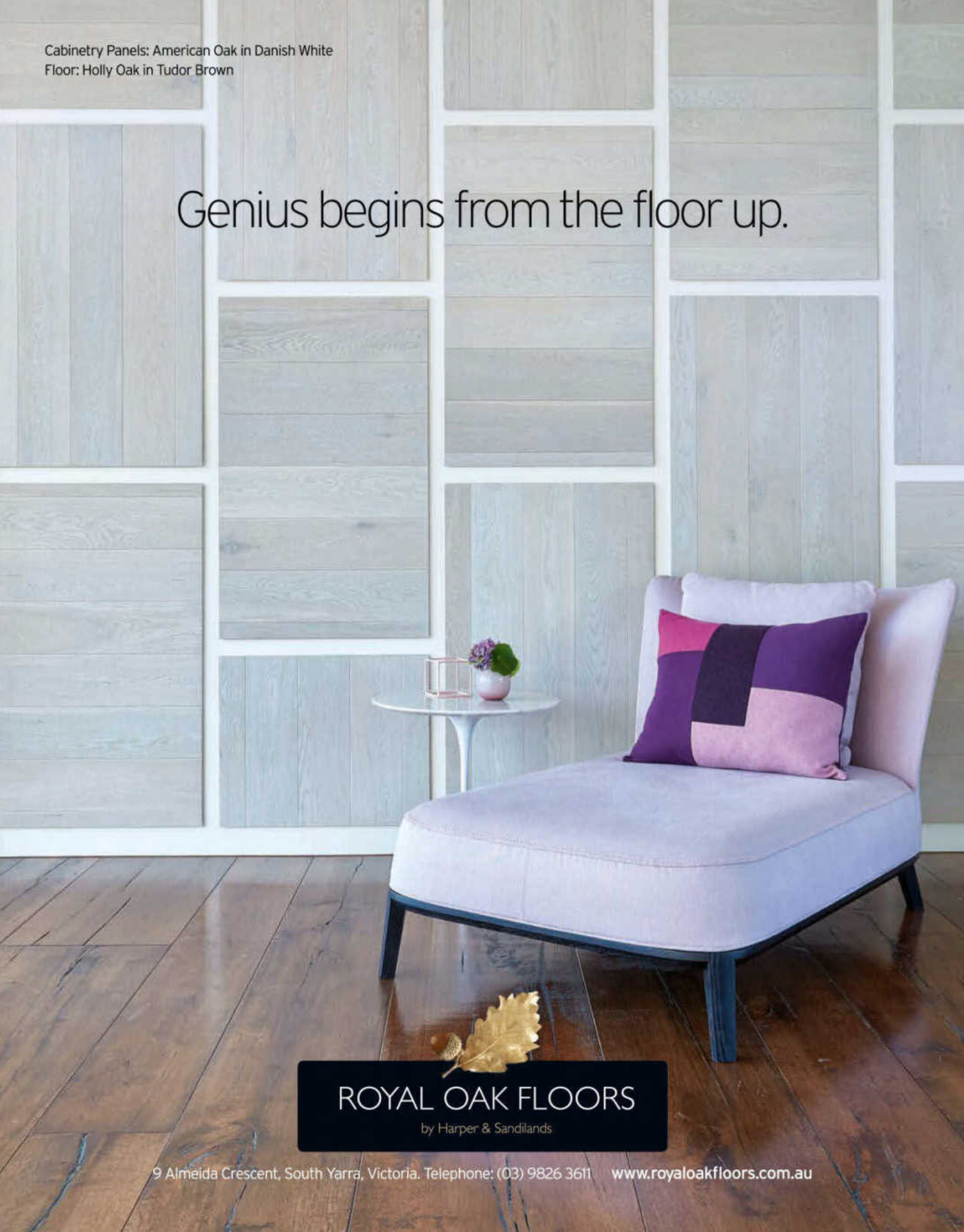
TINY TUB IN RESPONSE TO THE SHORTAGE OF LAUNDRY SPACE IN SMALLER HOMES, CLARK HAS RELEASED A COMPACT 'UTILITY MINI', A 300MM-WIDE TUB WITH CABINET. $349; WWW.CLARK.COM.AU.



BELLISSIMO

Italian bathroomware brand Moab 80 is now stocked by Brisbane's Elite Bathware & Tiles. One of many pieces in the showroom, The Door cabinet (right) holds real industrial appeal with its repurposed timber drawers and angled handles in burnished brass and copper. The coated-steel washbasin and vanity comes in standard sizes and can also be made to order. The combined unit is priced at $6686; www.elitebathware.com.au. **H&G**




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The Eclipse Collection - Seda
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Colour Featured: White

Genero Design Platinum
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Design Featured: Rose Birch

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Dreamy bedrooms for tots to teens

For product details, see next page.

Styling by Ashley Pratt. Photograph by Maree Homer.

DECORATING

INSPIRATION / TRENDS / MASTERCLASS

DREAM A LITTLE

Treat blooming imaginations to bedrooms as dreamy as they are fun. For toddlers, tweens and teens, these special spaces deliver delight and calm in equal measure.

STYLING **ASHLEY PRATT** / PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**

ON WALL **from left** Cole & Son Melville **wallpaper,** $250/10m roll, Radford. Circle oak **shelf,** $390, Bride&Wolfe. T-Lab Polepole wooden **animals,** about $27/each, Father Rabbit. Lucky Boy Sunday Peppe alpaca-wool **knitted toy,** $90, Little Pie Street. Soho Curve brass **sconces,** $220/each, with linen **shades,** $115/each, Emac & Lawton. Designer Boys Feather in Flight **framed print,** $605, Boyd Blue. Banjo **loveseat** with linen upholstery, $2900, MCM House. **ON SOFA** **from left** Monte wool **cushion** #16 in Grey, $175, and **cushion** #11 in White, $160, Pampa. **Penguin toys,** $24 (small) and $36 (medium), Fiona timber **cot,** $954, Nursery linen **cot bumper,** $196, cotton **fitted cot sheet,** $29, linen **cot skirt,** $99, all Pottery Barn Kids. Pure cashmere **baby blanket** in Dove Grey, $230, Hickory Hill Home. LoneBlackSheep wool-cashmere **travel rug,** $150, Father Rabbit. Monte wool **cushion** #16, $175, Pampa. **Polar Bear toy,** $62, Pottery Barn Kids. **HENRY** wears Whale cotton-elastane **tee,** $20, and Panelled cotton **shorts,** $30, Seed Heritage. Vilac Classic metal **ride-on car,** $250, Kido Store. Dash & Albert wool **rug** (1.5x2.4m), $1340, Honeybee Homewares. Wall behind sofa painted Wash & Wear 101 in Gentle Calm, $46/L, Dulux. Texline Comfort vinyl **flooring** in Keywest Gris, $60/m² (installed), Gerflor (throughout). **PREVIOUS PAGE** **Wallpaper, shelf** and **toys,** all as before. Trogen pine **chest of drawers,** $249, Ikea. Crochet **garland** (2.5m), $45, Honeybee Homewares. Glass **bottles,** from $7/each, **wild turkey feathers,** $7/each, and **citrine,** $15, all Table Tonic. Down to the Woods **white feather cluster,** $4.95, The Woodsfolk. Miniature wooden **boat,** $140, Elise Cameron-Smith. Basix linen **curtain,** $249, Hale Mercantile Co. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



CREATURE COMFORT

With an enchanting wallpaper as your foundation, weave in other natural references and soft touches.

Stylist's assistants Sarah Maloney, Lisa Dingelmaier, Martine Osborne & Katelyn Tripodi. Currency conversion correct at time of printing.



MAKING MAGIC

Explore dusty pastels and hints of gold to elevate a little girl's room to a realm beyond the ordinary.





Handmade paper **clouds,** POA, Tan Arlidge. Antoinette **day bed** with linen upholstery, $2530 (includes mattress and two bolsters), Me & Mo Homewares. **ON DAY BED from left** Linen-wrapped **stars,** $27 (medium) and $29 (large), Mamapapa. Cotton Velvet **cushion cover** in Blush, $45, Citta Design. Linen **cushion** in Plum, $89, Honeybee Homewares. Numero 74 Star cotton **cushion** in Beige, $64, and Star vinyl **mini cushion** in Glitter Gold, $46, Leo & Bella. Vintage linen **throw** in Aubergine, $595, Honeybee Homewares. Washed Velvet **quilted throw** in Ash, $159, Citta Design. Unicorn **toy,** $49, Pottery Barn Kids. **ARIELLA** wears Dazzle Me Pretty cotton and tulle **tutu,** $180, Papier D'amour. Tulle **wings,** $62, Mamapapa. Mrs Mighetto Among the Clouds Mr Oscar **print,** $75, Leo & Bella. For similar **frame,** try Ikea. Numero 74 cotton **canopy,** $220, and **star garland** (2.5m), $59, Leo & Bella. Star **light,** $210, Honeybee Homewares. Down to the Woods copper **string lights** (10m), $69, The Woodsfolk. **ON FLOOR from left** Wool **sheep,** $95, Mamapapa. Down to the Woods **swan with crown,** $50, The Woodsfolk. **CHIEF** the pug x Tibetan spaniel sleeps on Numero 74 cotton **futons** (75x110cm), $145/each, and Star vinyl **mini cushion,** $46, Leo & Bella. Stella linen **square cushion,** $129, Hale Mercantile Co. Powder cotton **heart cushion,** $50, and linen-wrapped **wings,** $79/set, Honeybee Homewares. **RUGS from left** Sierra Weave wool-viscose **rug** in Fairyfloss (1.4x2m), $750, Armadillo&Co. Round felt **rug** (1m diameter), $239, and rectangular felt **rug** (1.4x1m), $319, Honeybee Homewares. Wall painted Eggshell Acrylic in Overcast, $44/L, Porter's Paints. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186. ▶



GAME CHANGER

Disrupt the natural order... Use overlapping rugs and impactful accessories to offset twin beds.



Cole & Son Macchine Volanti **wallpaper,** $650/2x10m rolls, Radford. Rupert king-single **bedheads** with hide upholstery, $1000/each, Heatherly Design Bedheads. Nellie oak **benches** with linen seats, $609/each, Me & Mo Homewares. Kustruta single-size cotton **quilt cover sets** with two pillowcases, $50/each, Ikea. Wortley Duralee polyester **cushions** in Marine, $225/each, Hamptons House. Flocca Macaron linen **round cushion** in Oro, $99, Hale Mercantile Co. Miniature wooden **boat**, $140, Elise Cameron-Smith. Timothy Oulton Globetrekker Aero aluminium **side table,** $2995, Coco Republic. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE** Quiver & Quill Brigade brass **helmet on stand,** $350, Culminare Design. Glass **dome,** $24, Table Tonic. Helmut Horn brass **beetle,** $70, Coco Republic. Daycraft Slab **notebooks,** $20/each, Top3 by Design. **TSERING** wears Contrast Neck cotton **tee,** $20, Seed Heritage, and reads *Viking Boy* by Tony Bradman, $45, Mamapapa. Down to the Woods blackboard **shield,** $27, The Woodsfolk. Casual Beach straw **fedora,** $30, Seed Heritage. Tweed Mill UK Tartan Tweed wool **ottoman,** $399, Hamptons House. Vincent **desk** with walnut top, $2295, and Timothy Oulton Circus aluminium **dining chair** with leather seat, $1140, Coco Republic. **ON DESK** Knitted cotton **bowl,** $35, Honeybee Homewares. Melting porcelain **mugs,** $38/each, Little Pie Street. Broste **butterfly net,** $60, Hamptons House. Timothy Oulton leather **balls,** $225/each, Coco Republic. **RUGS from left** Puna #59 wool **rug** (1.9x1.3m), $990, Pampa. Vintage Moroccan wool **rug** (2x3m), $4800, Cadrys. Pampa Monte Neutral #17 wool **rug** (1.3x2m), $1090, Our Corner Store. Wall painted Eggshell Acrylic in Flagstone, $44/L, Porter's Paints. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.





WILD & FREE

Imbue a teenager's retreat with textural delights, dynamic prints and furniture that will go the distance.

Bethany Linz Succulent Texture **wallpaper** in Sage, $68/m, Sparkk. Paddington Perspex and crochet **pendant lights,** $345/each, Zaffero. **FROM LEFT** Jonathan Adler Delphine brass and mirror **side table,** $1995, Coco Republic. on left side table Rose Gold metal **planter,** $19, and **wild turkey feathers,** $7/each, Table Tonic. Aviator **sunglasses,** $30, Seed Heritage. Inosha cotton **wall hanging,** $169, Table Tonic. MM Sleeping queen-size metal **four-poster bed,** $1299, Incy Interiors. Basix linen **curtains,** $249/each, Hale Mercantile Co. Icelandic Horse canvas **print** in shadow-box frame, $210, Urban Road. **ON BED** **from rear** Flocca linen **pillowcases** in Ayrton (left) and Rosa, $69/each, and queen-size linen **quilt cover** in Ayrton, $550, Hale Mercantile Co. Algiers cotton **cushion cover with tassels,** $60, Citta Design. Velvet **quilt,** $279, Me & Mo Homewares. **BILLIE** wears Chambray embroidered-cotton **top,** $60, and Slim cotton-elastane **jeans,** $60, Seed Heritage. Jonathan Adler Mongolian Lamb brass **bench** with sheepskin seat, $2895, Coco Republic. Sequin **tote bag,** $140, Mamapapa. Jonathan Adler Jacques lucite and brass tiered **side table,** $1995, Coco Republic. **ON RIGHT SIDE TABLE, TOP SHELF** **from left** Kartell Jellies plastic **jug,** $110, and **water glass,** $25, and Kreafunk Ahead **wireless headphones,** $180, all Top3 by Design. Jonathan Adler Dollar Sign brass and marble **ornament,** $355, Coco Republic. **BOTTOM SHELF** **from left** Down to the Woods Tingle polystone **pot,** $18, The Woodsfolk. Daycraft Slab A6 **notebooks,** $20/each, Top3 By Design. Loomware Juju feather **wall hanging,** $399, Hamptons House. Hanging Basket rattan **hanging chair,** $449, Naturally Cane. **ON HANGING CHAIR** Ludde **sheepskin,** $79, Ikea. No. 5 Fringed cotton **cushion cover,** $60, Citta Design. Indian Moroccan wool **rug** (1.7x2.4m), from $2450, Cadrys.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



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Colour Featured: White

Genero Design Platinum
Luxury Vinyl Plank
Design Featured: Rose Birch

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TRENDS

HAPPY CAMPERS

When wanderlust strikes, these rustic, robust and utterly practical homewares will allow you to enjoy the great outdoors without forgoing any creature comforts.



1 / Little Chief cotton-canvas **pennant**, $29/each, Pony Rider; www.ponyrider.com.au. 2 / Solar metal and glass **lantern**, $85, Terrace Outdoor Living; www.terraceoutdoorliving.com.au. 3 / Amigos De Hoy tan leather **floor pad**, $149, Art Hide; www.arthide.com.au. 4 / S'Well insulated stainless-steel 500ml **bottle** in Element Blue Marble, $50, Top3 by Design; www.top3.com.au. 5 / Indian Tiffin stainless-steel **box**, $20, Oxfam; www.oxfamshop.org.au. 6 / Natural elm **stool**, $495, St Barts; www.st-barts.com.au. 7 / Upcycled Tote recycled-leather jacket **bag**, $325, Upcycle Studio; www.upcyclestudio.com.au. 8 / Deejo Wood juniper wood and stainless-steel **pocket knife**, $59, Boardwalk Imports; www.boardwalkimports.com.au. 9 / Faunascape Let's Get Lost A3 **poster**, $30, Paper Empire; paperempire.com.au. 10 / Tropicana Hammocks Macrame hanging **chair**, $106, Zanui, www.zanui.com.au. 11 / How to Tie a Knot enamel **mug**, $15, Cranmore Home; www.cranmorehome.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Ashley Pratt. Camping inspiration image courtesy of Barefoot Gypsy; www.barefootgypsy.com.au.

TRENDS

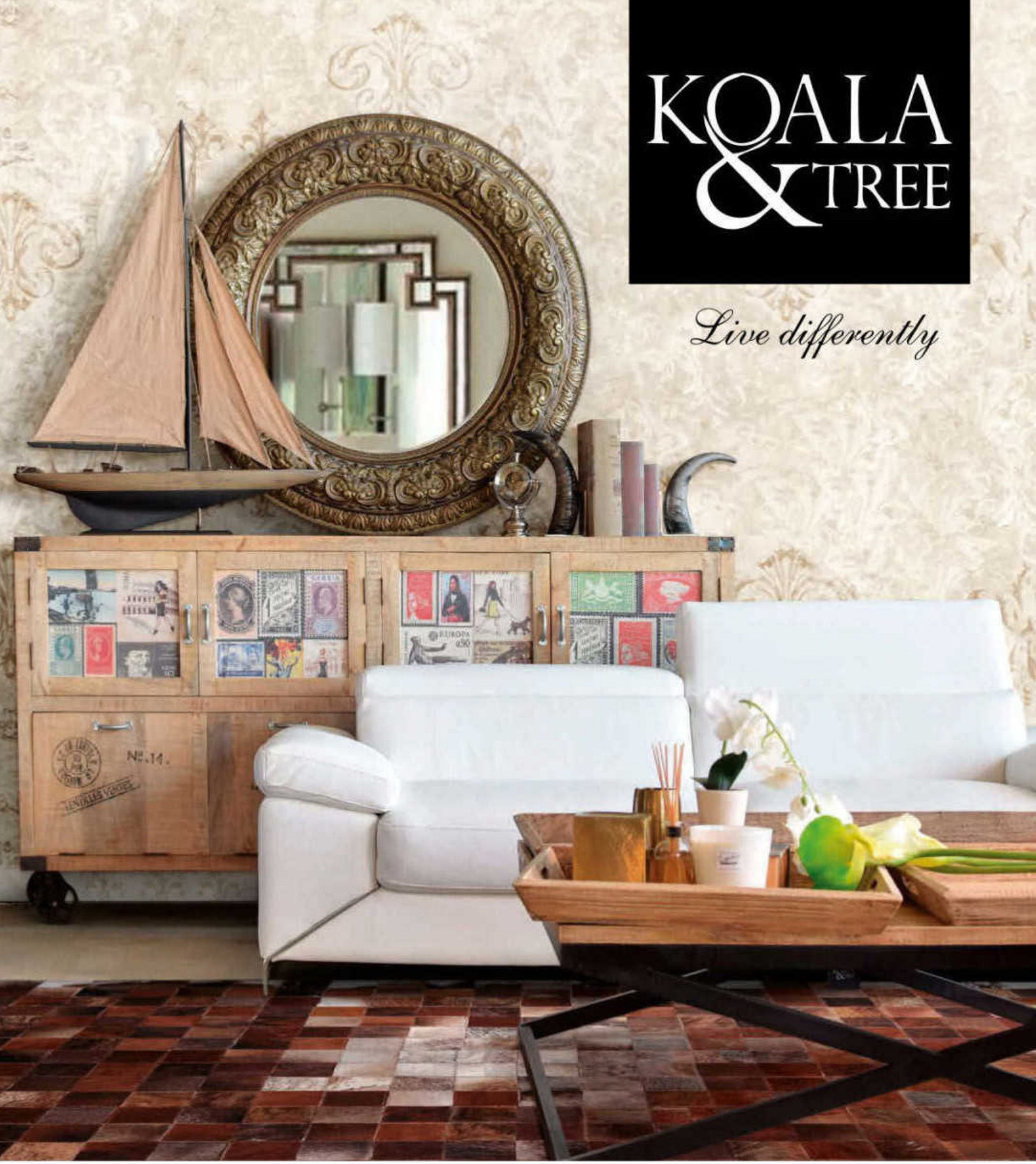
GILT TRIP

The seductive glint of gold and brass transmute everyday wares into precious objects. Textured finishes and rich forms cast shafts of light and shadow for 24-carat impact.



1 / Nel Lusso Cariso lacquered-brass **pedestal bowl,** $80, Zimba; 1800 147 538 or zimba.com.au. **2 /** Charm stainless-steel **cutlery** in Gold, $99/16-piece set, Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au. **3 /** Round brass **tray** with mirror base, $70, Zara Home; 1800 121 095 or www.zarahome.com/au/en/. **4 /** Ombre dip-dyed cotton-velvet and linen **cushion cover** in Gold, $49, West Elm; 1800 239 516 or www.westelm.com.au **5 /** Nel Lusso Melrose large ceramic **vase** in Gold, $30, Zimba. **6 /** Pedestal **table** with spun-metal base with brass finish and marble top, $849, West Elm. **7 /** Vitra Tripod Desk brass and acrylic **clock,** $660, Living Edge; 1300 132 154 or www.livingedge.com.au. **8 /** Baroque resin and brass-plated **table lamp** with microfibre shade in Antique Gold, $1110, Boyd Blue; (07) 5527 0899 or www.boydblue.com. **9 /** Soludos Platform Smoking canvas and braided jute **shoes** with crochet trim in Disco Glitter, $120, The Iconic; (03) 8379 9400 or theiconic.com.au. **10 /** Jiten Sconce **wall/ceiling light** in Antique Brass, $1308, Boyd Blue. **H&G**

Produced by Kayla Gex.



Sail Boat $495, Mirror $445, Leather 2 Seater $1799, Coffee Table $699, Clock $145, Bookends $145, Buffet $1299, Rug $599

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MASTERCLASS #14

SAVING SPACE



Smart storage can change your life, writes **Darren Palmer,** and it doesn't need to break the budget. Here, he shares his top space-saving tips.



Multipurpose furniture

Some years ago, a friend of mine purchased a coffee table that, with the click of a lever, elevated to dining-table height. It wasn't overly beautiful but, boy, was it functional. Most coffee tables these days reflect the way people really live in their homes. West Elm has a folding table option with storage inside, other designs have open shelves underneath for books or magazines and you can stow toys by simply popping a few boxes underneath.

One clever idea I saw on the internet recently was a hollow chair stacked full of books. The same solution has been applied to sofas, with the back or arms of the sofa including a shelf to store books and decor. Genius.

But one of my all-time favourite designs has to be the clever multipurpose pieces you can find at companies such as Resource Furniture (www.resourcefurniture.com). The most exciting is a sofa that converts into a bunk bed, a dream solution for accommodating young visitors in a small home.

Hideaway furniture

Tried and true, the Murphy bed is the proper name for those pull-down wall beds we've seen around for years. The ultimate floor-space saver, contemporary versions integrate with sofas, desks or bookcases, the bed only revealing itself – without the need to move everything – when it's time to turn in for the night.

An idea I explored for myself in my modest one-bedroom apartment many years ago was a hinged tabletop that unclipped from a latch on the wall, with a supporting leg underneath. It was a great small-space solution for a dining table, breakfast bar or desk top.

If you don't have the space for an entertainment unit, hang your television on the wall. It's hardly revolutionary, I know, but consider ceilings too – they present an opportunity to integrate storage and functionality. With the press of a button, your television can fold neatly down from a cavity in the ceiling. It does change the sight-line to far higher than you may be accustomed to, but small-space solutions are often about compromise.

Waste not, want not: exploiting underused spaces

Custom-fit shelves or drawers beneath staircases to utilise the otherwise useless void; store shoes, wine – anything.

Photograph (main) by Maree Homer, (under-staircase storage) from Alamy and (Graham Hill's apartment) by Matthew Williams for LifeEdited.



CUSTOM-FIT SHELVES OR DRAWERS BENEATH STAIRCASES TO UTILISE THE OTHERWISE USELESS VOID.

Or install an office nook with a desk. You can also treat stair risers as drawer fronts; install full-width drawers with runners and use them as storage.

The area under your mattress that might otherwise be taken up with a bed frame or base can also be put to good use. Drawers can work well, but to access all available space, purchase a bed frame that lifts with the assistance of gas struts, allowing you to store larger items you may not have cupboard space for. King Living (www.kingliving.com.au) offers the same solution in its Delta storage sofa.

The kitchen – which has great potential to become cluttered – also has hidden options. Kickboards beneath cabinets are generally 120-150mm to accommodate changes in the floor level; build in slim drawers to store baking pans, cookbooks and the like. Address those awkward kitchen corners with shelf systems by Hafele, Blum and Tansel, which bring pots and pans out from the deepest recesses.

Accessing hard-to-reach spaces

Older homes with high ceilings present a perfect opportunity for full-height storage integrating a pull-down coat-hanging solution. Last, convert roof space to storage space by installing a ladder to the attic – it's a good place to store things you don't need on a daily basis. **H&G**

HIDDEN EXTRAS

OUTSIDE THE SQUARE

Even in a large home, a workspace may be tucked away in a smaller room. Exploit the walls by building shelves around doorways as well as beside and above the door. It will create an interesting-looking library wall and is a terrific use of space.

One of my must-haves when it comes to designing a bathroom is a shaving cabinet. A seamless wall of mirror looks spectacular, but a shaving cabinet with storage for cosmetics is worth the odd join or two, and tidies up your benchtops to boot.

Moving to the kitchen, a good old country solution is a pot rail installed in front of your splashback, keeping (nice-looking) pots at the ready if you don't have enough drawers or cupboards. The same outcome can be achieved by suspending a pot rack above an island bench.

MORPHING SPACES

YouTube is great for showing brilliant ideas from homes across the world.

A fantastic solution I saw on the video-sharing platform recently was a tiny apartment in Hong Kong updated by its clever architect owner. This single-room apartment accommodated a kitchen, dining, bathroom, lounge room and bedroom, all by simply sliding custom-built wall sections either left or right, revealing different functional pods to the space. It was cleverness at its best.

WORKING WITH SPACE ISSUES IN NEW YORK

The New York apartment (below) of entrepreneur Graham Hill is similarly ingenious, with one sliding pod used to define the area as either a large one-bedroom space or two smaller bedrooms given privacy by a magnetised curtain when both spaces are being used. There are plenty of other clever storage solutions built into the kitchen, too, all of which proves good design and creativity is the solution to living well – no matter the proportions of your space.




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by mirvac

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MY IDEAL HOUSE

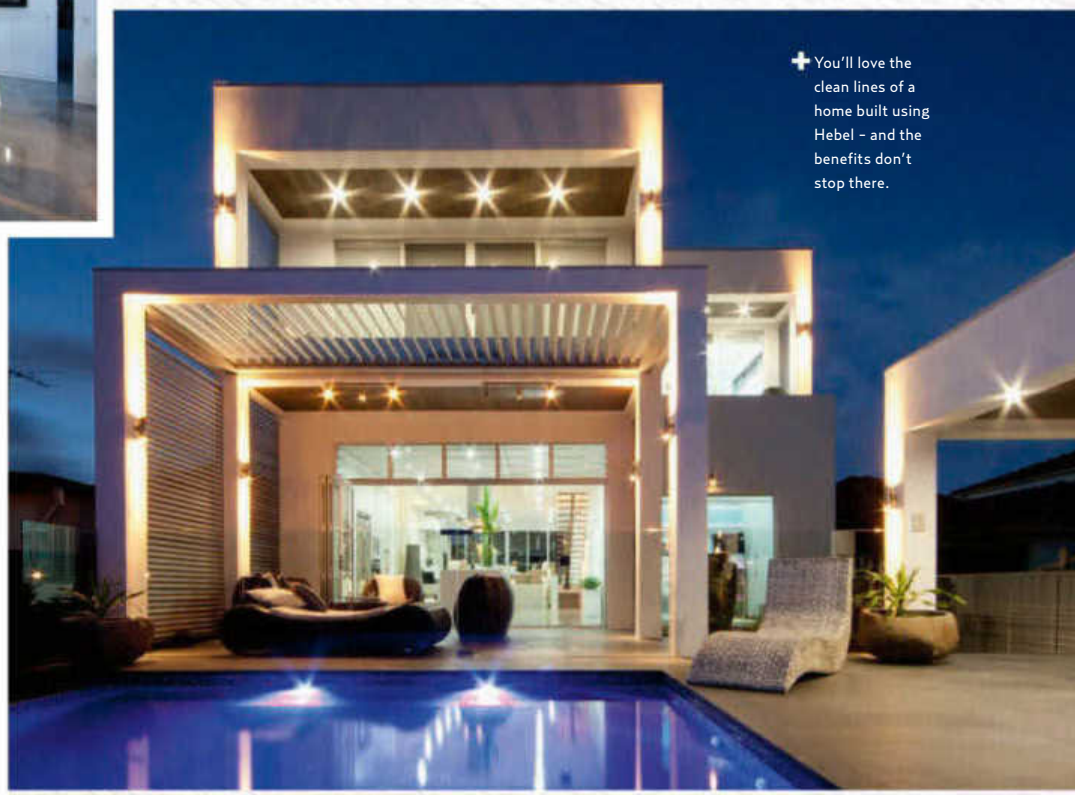
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A VISION SPLENDID

What is the ideal home for Australian families? Our exciting new competition, My Ideal House, presents the opportunity of a lifetime: to design and build a landmark new home.



Photograph by Chris Warnes. Project by Scott Weston Architecture Design.

MY IDEAL HOUSE

HOUSE OF IDEAS

Establishing the criteria for the Australian family home of today... and tomorrow.

The year is 1957. Robert Menzies is prime minister, Jørn Utzon has just won a competition to design the Sydney Opera House and the Holden FE sedan is rolling off the production line. *Australian House & Garden,* in its ninth year of publication, invites readers to pore over its visionary floor plan for the House of Tomorrow. It's a home that uses "today's materials with tomorrow's inspiration" and anticipates "how people will want to live".

Six decades on, much has changed. But the need for good home design has arguably never been greater. "We've come to a point where we have to think very carefully about the kind of homes we're adding to our housing stock," says Dr Judith O'Callaghan, senior lecturer and director of postgraduate research at UNSW's Built Environment faculty.

This month, *H&G*, in partnership with Mirvac, launches an important competition: to design the ideal Australian home for our times.

The competition will explore the possibilities of contemporary home design, to encourage a better way of living now and with a view to the future. The My Ideal House competition is an opportunity for Australia's brightest design minds to influence the way we live, and there's a $25,000 prize for the winning home scheme. We'll then build the home, with *H&G* readers following the action in the magazine and via online updates, polls and through exciting giveaways.

Driving the competition brief is the need for affordable housing that is flexible in terms of its use and efficient in layout, and easy on energy and water consumption. Equally important is the role that the modern family home should play as a healthy, happy place of shelter that serves all occupants well and interacts seamlessly with the broader community. In essence, we need a new blueprint for the Australian home. With this in mind, we spoke to experts in the field to discuss issues surrounding housing in Australia and asked them to list the elements that should feature in an exemplary family home.

Family comes first

Any rethink of home design for today's Australian family must start precisely there: with the family. "There's no such thing as a traditional family structure anymore," says Peter Cotton, national practice director, Mirvac Design. "Kids are living with their parents for far longer, or the home might need to accommodate ageing parents. All of this impacts on the way a home operates." Figures from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute bear this out: 2011 data shows that since 1981 multi-generation households in Australia had increased by 26.9 per cent.

"It's increasingly important that home designers and builders keep pace with the expectations of potential buyers," says Cotton. "That's why it's so important that any new house being built is flexible enough to cater for different combinations of people living in one space."

Flexibility for the future

A clever home is one that's easy to adapt as a family's needs change. "Ideally, we would take inspiration from the Japanese and have partitioned spaces, not fixed walls, so rooms could be reconfigured easily," says Bernard Salt, social commentator and demographer at advisory firm KPMG. "We're beginning to understand the need for a house to be versatile and responsive." ▶

The My Ideal House competition is an opportunity for Australia's brightest design minds to influence the way we live, and there's a $25,000 prize for the winning design.



Text by Sarah Pickette. Photograph by Maree Homer. Project by Molnar Freeman Architects.

YOUR IDEAL HOUSE? HERE'S WHAT OUR RECENT READER POLL REVEALED

What are your must-haves in a home?
Outdoor entertaining area *84%*
Good indoor–outdoor flow *75%*
Open-plan layout *71%*
Walk-in wardrobe *65%*
Gas connection *62%*
Shed or workshop *59%*

If you had the opportunity to influence an off-the-plan home design, which areas would you most like to influence?
Kitchen layout/design *88%*
Floor finishes *63%*
Bathroom design *62%*

What do you NOT want in your ideal home?
Outdoor bathroom *62%*
Granny flat *54%*
Man cave *53%*
Formal dining room *52%*
Media room *52%*

SOURCE: IDEAL HOUSE SURVEY, SEPTEMBER 2015





PAST & PRESENT

Australian House & Garden ***has a long history of aiding the home builder and renovator.***

Magazines have always influenced homeowners and builders in Australia. Historically, they have played a significant role in shaping the way homes were designed and built. In the 1950s, build-it-yourself house plans were offered to *Australian House & Garden*'s readers for a small price and home-design competitions flourished, encouraging readers to pitch in and have a go at drawing up perfect housing for the times. Now, with My Ideal House, we're inviting you to do the same. "*H&G* was a leading player in the postwar push to kickstart affordable housing initiatives," says Lisa Green, *H&G*'s editor in chief. "Times have changed but the need for well-designed, affordable, sustainable and future-thinking housing has not. We think it's time to reignite the conversation around good home design."

H&G DESIGN

The ideal house needs to consider occupants of all ages, through different stages of their lives.

Photograph by Maree Homer. Project by Shaun Lockyer Architects.

AT THE END of the Second World War, Australian publications helped address the housing shortage by offering innovative and economical ways to own a home, says Dr O'Callaghan, co-author of *Designer Suburbs* (NewSouth Books, $49.99), which documents the history of architects, affordable homes, and the project-home industry. "Magazines played a big part in normalising new designs and promoting the concept of the project home," she says. *Australian House & Garden* regularly featured 'do it yourself' homes throughout the 1950s. These budget-conscious, architect-designed plans cost little and were extremely popular. "About one third of the 600,000 houses built in Australia in the 1950s were constructed by owner-builders," says Dr O'Callaghan. "These very accessible plans helped feed the postwar hunger for smaller, more contemporary styles of home."







Architect John P Ley's trailblazing design in a 1957 issue.

◀ Flexible rooms are a direct route to making a home future-proof, says Shawn Godwin, director of Brisbane's Base Architecture. "In our practice we believe in multiplicity of spaces, rather than multiple spaces," he says. "If one or two spaces can potentially be used for five functions over the years, that's extremely efficient and valuable."

Eco matters

A home designed for flexible usage will require fewer structural changes down the track. That's good news for the environment, because every building material has an environmental cost.

Building codes ensure that new homes meet sustainability standards, but the responsibility for any eco inclusions beyond the requirements tends to fall firmly on the architect or designer's shoulders, says Robert Caulfield, architect and founder of Archicentre building advisory service. "Most people are very conscious of the need for their home to be energy-efficient, but almost all would choose to spend their budget on a fancy kitchen that will impress their friends instead of eco inclusions," he says. "It's the duty of the person designing a home to build in sustainability."

Sustainability does need to be considered in the context of affordability, says Sydney architect Caroline Pidcock, but she feels it should take top billing. "Sustainable inclusions are cost-efficient over time, as well as being delightful to live with."

The price is right?

Housing affordability is a hot topic, particularly for Australia's city dwellers. "In our capitals pent-up demand has been caused by a lack of land supply, leading to price increases that have made houses unaffordable for many," says Kristin Brookfield, senior executive director of building, development and environment at the Housing Industry Association (HIA).

Affordability has improved a little over the past year, she says, but is still a major societal concern. What is changing rapidly is the way in which Australians think about the progression of home ownership, says Bernard Salt. The lure of owning property is so strong, he says, most Australians find a way to achieve it. "Sometimes this means shifting your priorities to reach an acceptance of the fact that you'll have to buy a tiny unit or a house that's further out of the city."

Taking in tech

The Internet of Things is now upon us. "Australia is on the verge of an era in which just about every electronic device in the house – from smoke detectors to alarm clocks, dishwashers and hot-water systems – will be connected to each other and to the internet," says Foad Fadaghi, managing director of independent telecommunications consultancy Telsyte. The current rollout of the National Broadband Network is opening the door to this boom in connectivity.

The extensive take up of technology will have a huge impact on the way a house functions, says Mirvac's Peter Cotton. "I'm interested to see how it plays out; it will change the things people do in their homes and how they do them. I think the big winners will be those who want to work from home. That's where the real gains will be."

What's next?

A clever home is one that's up to date, from the ideas that go into its planning and design right through to the materials and technology within its walls. "We want our homes to be smarter," says Brookfield. "That doesn't necessarily mean bigger – the McMansion era is over – but it does mean a thoughtful use of space and the incorporation of time-saving technology."

A contemporary home must have the ability to handle climate change, adds Cotton. "Storms and extreme weather are only getting worse. It's not just the house itself that has to stand up to the roughest weather conditions, but also the land surrounding it."

Likewise, a healthy home takes its surrounds into account, says Caulfield. "You need to look closely at quality of life for all the family. I think sometimes the intrinsic value of having space to kick a footy in the backyard gets overlooked. I'd argue that for a home to be healthy you need space for everyone, but especially the kids." ▶

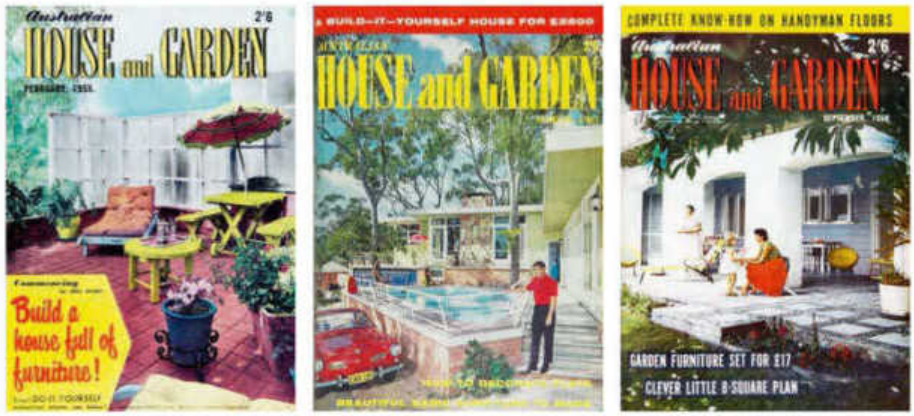
'We want our homes to be smarter. That means a thoughtful use of space and the incorporation of time-saving technology.' ***Kristin Brookfield, HIA***

MY IDEAL HOUSE

A NATION'S ASPIRATIONS

Demographer Bernard Salt *charts the people, fads and fixtures that have shaped our home design.*

"It took us about 200 years to get here, but we have finally shifted away from the English notion of what a house should be like. We've faced up to the fact that the traditional English way of doing things doesn't always work for our climate. It really took Italian and Greek migrants, in the '50s through to the '70s, to shake us out of that rut and to introduce us to the concept of alfresco living. We owe them a great debt for this! Australian homeowners now see the value of a house that responds to its surrounds and climate. Think about the homes being designed today: light streams in, everything is open and the house has a flow to it. Instead of ushering them into a formal parlour or 'good' room, you're more likely to walk your guests right through the house and out to your deck or outdoor entertaining area. Or they'll perch at your kitchen island bench with a glass of wine. There they'll chat while you chop, all within view of your gooseneck tap. The gooseneck tap is the status symbol of today. In days gone by, you might have had a fancy sideboard with your good china or wineglasses on show. Now you're more likely to have a huge gooseneck tap – the bigger and more surgical the better!"



ABOVE RIGHT / *Australian House & Garden* issues of the 1950s and '60s, with plans for DIY homes and furniture, reflected the hopes of postwar Australians.

Change of plans

The dream of owning a home has been revised over the decades, writes **Harvey Grennan.**

The Great Australian Dream of property ownership has burgeoned from the 'austerity cottage' of the postwar era to the McMansions of recent years, the biggest homes in the world.

After World War II there was a huge demand for housing but materials (and money) were in short supply. Cheap timber-framed designs using fibro, masonite and weatherboard were the order of the day, and many couples built their own starter home with recycled and/or scrounged materials. Brick veneer was developed to confer the status of a brick house at bargain rates.

The 1950s saw the advent of the 'modern' house, as typified by the work of Harry Seidler and Robin Boyd, but architect-designed homes didn't really break into the mass market until the '60s. These were contemporary, often split-level designs produced by the likes of Pettit & Sevitt in Sydney and Merchant Builders in Melbourne, and they introduced such delights as open-plan living, picture windows and avocado-tiled ensuites. These houses may have been small by today's standards but they were functional and affordable, at about £6000 (about $153,000 today) and up. However, ranch-style and faux-colonial project homes, with their low ceilings and sometimes gaudy features, continued to dominate the new-home market.

Sustainability became a growing issue with the energy crises of the 1970s but it was not until the turn of the new century that governments began to legislate energy- and water-saving measures such as NSW's BASIX system.

The 1990s brought us the McMansion, an exercise in producing the biggest house for the least cost on the smallest block without the benefit of an architect. By 2013 the average size of a new house in Australia was about 243m^2, 50 per cent bigger than they were 30 years ago and the biggest in the world.

Conversely, they are built on the smallest blocks. That old austere fibro cottage sat on a quarter-acre parcel (just over 1000m^2), big enough to kick a football around. Homes in 2016 are lucky to squat on 400m^2; blocks can be as small as 250m^2.

But there is another, more fundamental change in housing patterns, driven by affordability and lifestyle issues. Two-thirds of new dwellings approved in Sydney are now apartments or villa projects, and half the city's population will be living in strata developments by 2040. Melbourne is not far behind.



"I'm a fan of incorporating technology into the home, and I think there'll be many ways life is made simpler and easier into the future. Just think of how liberating wi-fi is in today's home." **Sonia Simpfendorfer, Nexus Designs**

What the industry says

"My ideal home would have great flow, and ease of journey to, from, around and within the spaces." **Shawn Godwin, Base Architecture**

"Put your money into good window and door suites that give great thermal performance and flexibility to take advantage of cross-ventilation and natural light." ***Scott Weston, Scott Weston Architecture Design***

"Flexibility is everything in a room, so long as your convertible spaces are well planned, correctly located, appropriately soundproofed and feature suitable joinery and materials." *Miriam Fanning, Mim Design*



"The places we design and build for our families need to optimise opportunities for their health and happiness. To me, this means finding a location that enables easy connections to community and reduced car dependency."

Caroline Pidcock, Pidcock Architecture + Sustainability

"Sustainability needn't vie with affordability. A well-designed property with passive design principles will reduce energy costs inherently over the long term." **Jo Gillies, Archisoul**

"I think a well-designed home layout with good connection to a private outdoor space is essential."

Andrew Waller, Andrew Waller Design

"WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS INSTALLED ON EVERY HOME, PRODUCING ENERGY THAT'S STORED IN BATTERIES FOR EVENING USE. I AM HOPING THAT PRICES WILL CONTINUE TO DROP AS THE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPS, SO THAT OUR HOMES CAN BE FAR FROM RELIANT ON OLD ENERGY SOURCES."

BROOKE AITKEN, BROOKE AITKEN DESIGN

Photography by Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au. Projects by Shaun Lockyer Architects.

MY IDEAL HOUSE

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN mirvac

Design competition MY IDEAL HOUSE 2016

Australian House & Garden invites you to submit a design for a contemporary family home.

A $25,000 PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE WINNING DESIGN!

Our project partner, Mirvac, has allocated a block of land in a new master-planned community, Crest by Mirvac at Gledswood Hills in Sydney's south-west, on which to build the winning design.

The competition is open to architects, design professionals and Australian residents over 16 who wish to try their hand.

How to enter

Download the full design scope and entry requirements from February 1, 2016 at:

www.myidealhouse.com.au

Feb 1, 2016
Competition opens

Download the comprehensive design scope, plus information package and terms and conditions, from the website. Stage 1 entry submissions must be lodged by 5pm March 6, 2016.

March 6, 2016
Competition closes

Shortlisted entries will be chosen to progress to Stage 2, with the Mirvac design team providing guidance where required to develop submissions for final judging.

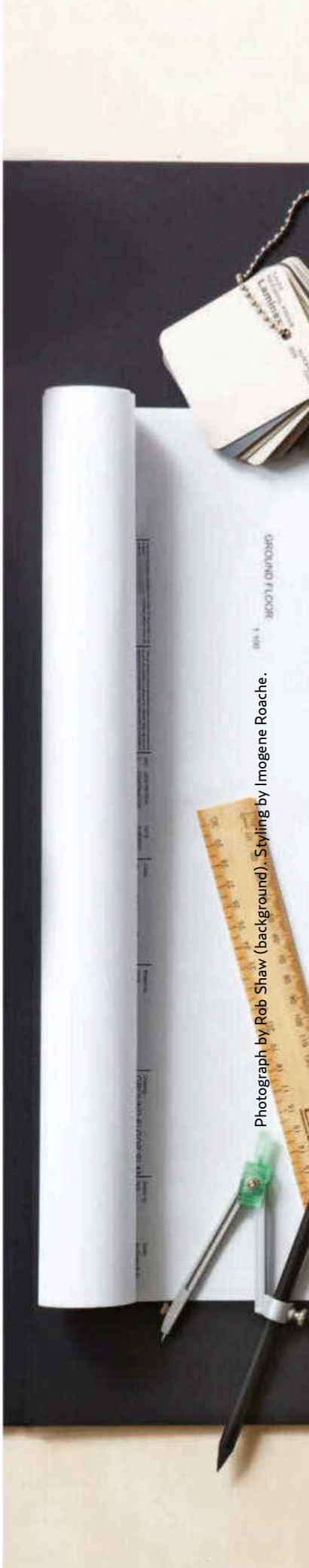
April 5-8, 2016
Final judging

Shortlisted entrants will present their submissions to the expert judging panel.

Mid-2016
Build commences

Mirvac will proceed with construction of the winning home design.

Follow the My Ideal House journey in each issue of *Australian House & Garden* and via regular online updates.



Photograph by Rob Shaw (background). Styling by Imogene Roache.



MY IDEAL HOUSE

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN mirvac

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At home with artist Roslyn Nolen

Photograph by Angelita Bonetti.

INSIDER

NEST / NEWS / DESIGN MOMENT

ROSLYN NOLEN
Artist

Roslyn's Perth home is a study in natural elements.







MY FAVE THINGS
(see previous page)

Proteas A favourite. They're bold, hardy and beautiful.
Side table From Cosmic Studios in Scarborough. I love its natural form.
Camera A gift from my husband. I recently used it to photograph brumbies in the Northern Territory.
Cushions I had these made to enhance the room.
Rug I spent many hours sourcing this. Its neutral tones balance the room.
Dog Rex has been part of our family for 11 years. He's protective, caring and great company.
Coffee table Also Cosmic Studios. It reminds me of a jigsaw puzzle.
Horse sculpture I'd been looking for a horse sculpture for years before I found this at Bed Bath N' Table.
Stool Cosmic Studios again. I love its rawness.
Horse painting One of my latest works, titled *Liberty*.
Chair A gift for my husband from a favourite shop, Louis' Antiques in Wembley.
Glass bowl A pop of colour amid the home's earthy palette. It was a wedding gift.
Aboriginal artwork Purchased on a road trip. Three of us travelled more than 3000km in a ute, talking and sharing stories.
www.roslynnolen.com.au.

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FIVE MINUTES WITH

Greg Natale

Trim, tailored and flaunting a dash of bold colour, Greg Natale's new range of furniture, Hudson, proves the designer is in fine form.

What motivated the new range?
Hudson comes from a desire to create classic furniture that hits the mark with craftsmanship, affordability and elegance.

What sort of ideas did you start with?
My inspiration came from New York, a city I fell in love with in my twenties, as well as the work of late actor-cum-designer William Haines.

What did you learn from designing the range?
That furniture is a details game. The refinement of every button and angle was pushed to the next level on this collection. I really enjoyed that evolution.

What does 'home' mean to you?
A beautiful place where you feel special. Your home is your own little stamp on the world and can be a sanctuary or a place to be shared.
www.gregnatale.com.





FLOOR SHOW
Brintons' exotic new carpet range, Santhiya, steps up the colour.
www.brintons.com.

DESIGN EVOLUTION
Villeroy & Boch

1748
François Boch founds a pottery in Lorraine, France.



1770
Old Luxemburg, V&B's first crockery, is produced.



1809
Ceramics are made at the Old Abbey in Mettlach, Germany.



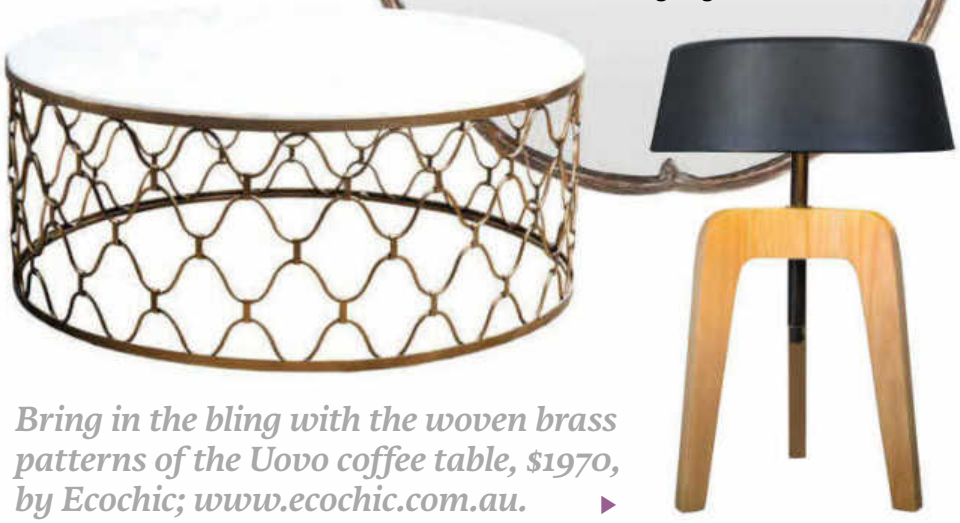




IN GOOD SHAPE
Designed by Apparatus, the Neo collection of lamps take geometric forms to new heights. From $1496; www.criteriacollection.com.au.

COME 'ROUND
We love the scalloped frame of the Flynn Maid's mirror, $451. Vavoom Emporium; www.vavoom.com.au.

IN LIKE A LIGHT
Broad-shouldered and handsome, Jacobsen (below), $299, is new to the range at www.brilliantlighting.com.au.



Bring in the bling with the woven brass patterns of the Uovo coffee table, $1970, by Ecochic; www.ecochic.com.au.

NUMBER CRUNCH



Julie Guichaoua
Marketing manager at AGA/Falcon takes us through the brands' key facts and figures.

1803
founded
John Flavel established Falcon with a manufacturing plant in Royal Leamington Spa in the UK. The company's first cooker was hailed for its ability to boil, roast, bake and warm from the same heat source.

14
available colours
Black, Pewter and Cream are the best-selling AGA colours, however pastels such as Aqua and Duck Egg Blue have become popular.

70+
percentage recyclable
70 per cent of AGA parts and 95 per cent of Falcon cooker parts can be recycled.

84
years old
A residence in Essex, England was home to an 84-year-old AGA, the oldest of the brand's cookers ever found. It was in perfect working order.

550
kilograms
The weight of the largest dual-control AGA cooker. Made of cast iron, it has five ovens: one each for roasting, simmering, baking, slow-cooking and warming.

2011
Total Control range launched
Where traditional cookers would have been left on continuously, ready to use at any point of the day, the new generation of AGA Total Control cookers can be switched on and off for greater energy efficiency. And ovens and hotplates can function independently.

www.agaaustralia.com.au; www.falconworld.com/au.

1869
V&B produces the mosaic tiles used on the *Titanic*.



1975
The brand ventures into bathrooms with the Colani collection.



2004
The NewWave cup wins a German Business Innovation award.



2012
V&B creates bespoke tableware for the Orient Express train.



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DOMESTIC BLISS

Secret Sydney

Sydney is where the bush meets the big smoke. While the harbour steals the show, the pieces created in artists' studios are what take us inside the soul of the city.

Multi-venue exhibition Destination Sydney is staging three major exhibits showcasing nine different artists across town. S.H. Ervin Gallery features remarkable works by Grace Cossington Smith, Margaret Preston and Cressida Campbell. The three share a lineage and many subtle contrasts: Cossington Smith imbues a quiet bedroom with tense emotive brushstrokes, Preston packs modernist innovation into a vase of flowers, and Campbell takes artist Margaret Olley's famously stuffed Paddington home and casts it in a clear, glazed light (as seen above in *Interior with Poppies,* 1992, woodcut). Bohemian clutter and flannel flowers... so Sydney.

– *Anna Johnson*

Destination Sydney, until February 21, at S.H. Ervin Gallery, www.shervingallery.com.au; Manly Art Gallery, (02) 9976 1420; Mosman Art Gallery, www.mosmanartgallery.org.au. H&G



COMPACT DISCS

Cute as a button, the simple, circular forms of ISM's Wink table lamps are inspired by antique candleholders. Guaranteed to shine a cheery light on any dark corner. From $280; www.ismobjects.com.au.

Photograph by Jon Linkins (*Interior with Poppies* cropped).

DESIGN MOMENT

LOCKHEED LOUNGE

A futuristic chaise longue launched the career of Marc Newson, Australia's best-known industrial designer, writes Chris Pearson.



During 1986, Marc Newson, newly graduated from Sydney College of the Arts, received a grant from the Crafts Council of Australia to fund an exhibition at a Sydney gallery. Making its debut was LC1 (now commonly known as the Lockheed Lounge). Alluringly glamorous in lustrous aluminium with sweeping curves punctuated by metal rivets, it stopped visitors in their tracks. Comfortable or not, it seduced the eye.

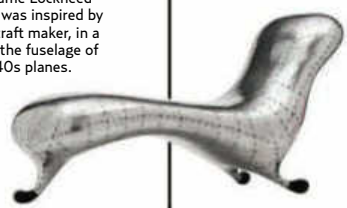
"For weeks I spent every night and every day working on the exhibition," he says, "and the only piece that sold was the LC1, for $3000, to the Art Gallery of South Australia."

It was the start of a 30-year journey for Newson and the lounge, culminating last April, when one of 15 Lockheeds in existence sold for £2.4m, making it the world's most expensive design object.

Though most people know him for his dazzling debut piece, Newson rarely has his feet up. Highlights of his subsequent collections for international brands include the organic Embryo and sinuous Wood chairs (produced by Cappellini), Strelka cutlery for Alessi, cookware for Tefal, lighting for Flos and Scope luggage for Samsonite. Qantas first-class passengers have enjoyed his dinnerware and lounges and he conjured up the airline's business-class Skybed and A380 interior. In 2005 he made *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people list.

1988

The name Lockheed Lounge was inspired by the aircraft maker, in a nod to the fuselage of 1940s planes.



1988

The Wood chair was originally commissioned for a travelling exhibition.



2011

Bunky, a bunk bed, was Newson's first piece for children.



2013

Part of the Caroma Marc Newson bathroom collection.



2015

The Marc Newson kettle for Sunbeam; the Marc Newson by Noritake fine-dining range.



As a child, Newson would potter in his grandfather's garage, making billycarts and taking things apart, so a career in industrial design was a logical step. His restless nature took him to Tokyo in 1987, then to Paris in 1992 (after being awarded commissions from Flos, Cappellini and Moroso in Italy the previous year). He has lived in London since 1997.

But Australian influences – such as his love of bold, blocked colour – endure. "[In Australia], the light is different," he says. "Colours look brighter. But perhaps the biggest effect, coming from Australia, is that I feel comfortable travelling distances and experiencing different cultures."

His creations have travelled too, and can now be found at New York's MoMA, London's Design Museum and Germany's Vitra Design Museum. Locally, Sydney's Powerhouse Museum acquired an Embryo in 1988 and, in 1991, a Lockheed, thanks to the keen eye of curator Judith O'Callaghan, now senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales. "It was the most unusual-looking creature, with its beautiful, curvaceous lines, which you see a lot of in his work," she says. "There's a softness to the edges of the form." Dr O'Callaghan rates him as the world's top industrial designer. "He is very logical, with a keen understanding of the way things work. He's not afraid to create distinctive forms when others play it safe."

WHAT IT MEANS TO US

Newson recently designed a biomorphic range of kettles and toasters for Sunbeam, in which he draws on his Australian roots and love of colour. "I appreciate Sunbeam as an iconic brand that has been part of kitchen history for decades. My aim was to create something that was simultaneously classic and futuristic" – and timeless. That, he says, is the definition of good design. **H&G**

Marc Newson; www.marc-newson.com.

Product images from www.marc-newson.com.

MATT BLATT



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74 NSW
A confident application of colour pays off in the home of stylist Carol Sae-Yang.

82 VICTORIA
Ceramicist Debbie Weinmann imbues a contemporary renovation with soulful notes.

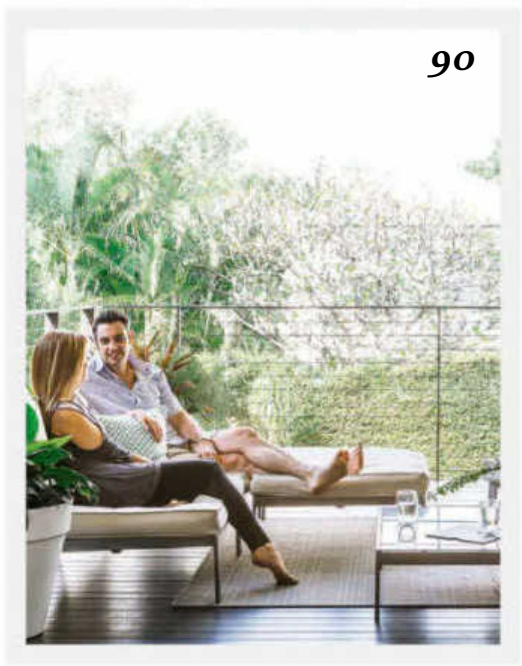
90 QUEENSLAND
What do you get when an architect and an interior designer cohabitate? An inspirational Queenslander.

98 WA
Ian Webber, furniture retailer, can't help but bring his work home with him.

106 VICTORIA
The home of interior decorator Lynn Cheong is a picture of sophistication.







For these creative folk, home is where the art is





HOUSES

CREATIVE HOMES



STYLE IN THE CITY

Stylist Carol Sae-Yang has transformed her family's inner-Sydney terrace into a chic, but ever-relaxed, oasis.

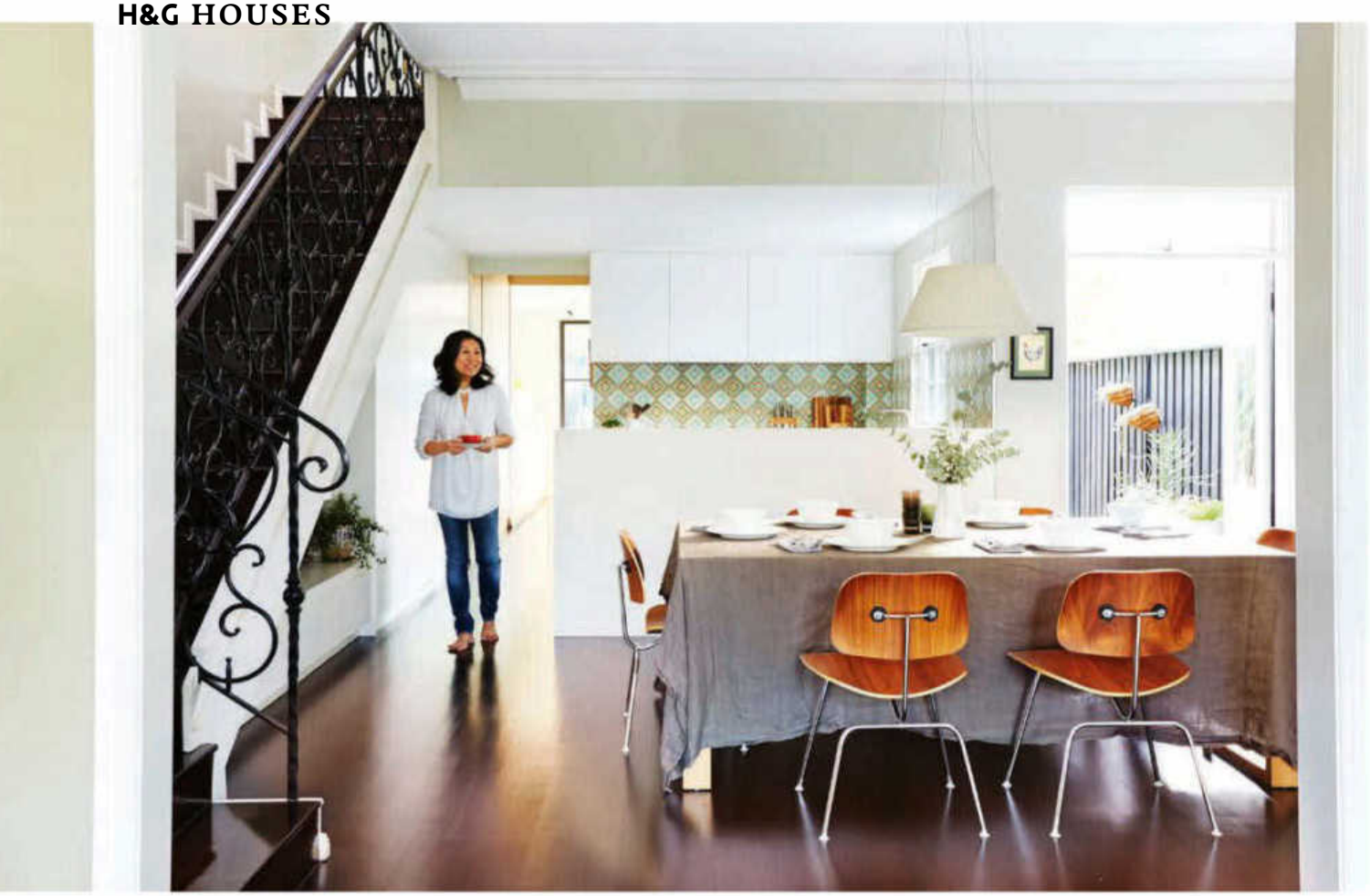
STORY **SUNNY DE BRUYN** / STYLING **ASHLEY PRATT** / PHOTOGRAPHY **JOHN PAUL URIZAR**



FORMAL LIVING / this page and opposite Carol has designated this zone as an area for the adults, where there's space for reading and enjoying some quiet time. Sofa, Jardan. Objekto Paulistano leather chairs, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Tulip coffee table, Vampt Vintage Design. Sideboard, Great Dane. Rug, bought in India. *Melba* photograph by Leila Jeffreys. **Designer buy:** Flos wall lamp, $1689, Euroluce. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

This is the life

"There's so much space here for us to live as a family," says Carol. "The children can play out the back while we have a conversation and glass of wine in the front room. Our house is very lived-in. The rooms are utilised all the time yet we're not living on top of each other," she says. "As far as the decor goes, I like earthy tones and the brightness of yellow. Our colour scheme seems to be green and gold! What could be better?"



Making a home look effortless is not easy; more often than not when a home appears casual and chic, it's the result of careful deliberation and painstaking arranging. Such is the case with Carol Sae-Yang and Nick Richards' home in inner-city Sydney. Fashion stylist Carol has a keen eye for design and the home is layered with interesting items, from colourful Moroccan tiles in the kitchen to timeless armchairs in the living area and elegant lamps in the main bedroom.

The couple bought the 1980s property at auction in 2005 and moved in two months later. "When we bought the house it had red and black walls inside and a Tuscan-yellow exterior," says Carol. "It wasn't inspiring at all, but we knew it had a good, solid structure." Over the next few years they had two children, Nia, now eight, and Owen, six, and renovated a little at a time.

Today they are living in their dream home. Leading from the entrance hall is a formal living room and kitchen. From there a light-filled, informal living area was added, which flows through to the rear of the property. ▶



THE PALETTE

Dulux Cargo River
interior, throughout

Dulux Off White
bathrooms

Try these accents

Resene Avocado

DINING / The oak table extends out to accommodate family and friends. Table and Eames chairs, Living Edge. Sideboard, Poliform. Light, Euroluce. Artworks by Carol's sister, Jeni Sae-Yang.
KITCHEN / With colourful tiles and a black balustrade nearby, white was the obvious choice for the Corian benchtops and cupboards. Popham Design tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Jug, Ikea.
LIVING / This chill-out space opens to the deck. Rug, Armadillo&Co. Artwork by Jeni Sae-Yang.
Smart buy: C110 Highback rattan lounge chair, $790, Feelgood Designs. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

◀ It opens onto a lush, private backyard, accessed via floor-to-ceiling bifold doors. On the first floor are four bedrooms and the family bathroom.

Carol has worked as a food, interiors and fashion stylist in magazines and television, as well as for personal clients, so is used to spending her days balancing what is visually pleasing with what has practical appeal. Her career involves working closely with people and she believes that the key to any successful project is collaboration. "Working as a fashion stylist for the past 10 years has taught me a lot about sourcing products and creating great aesthetics. Interior designers work in much the same way as stylists; they are experts in their field and I trust them to source the best products for my home because they have the right contacts," she says.

"We renovated the house in different stages from 2008 to 2010, and by the time we came to the interior we wanted to have some fun by adding colour and personality. We ended up engaging interior designers Arent&Pyke, ▶



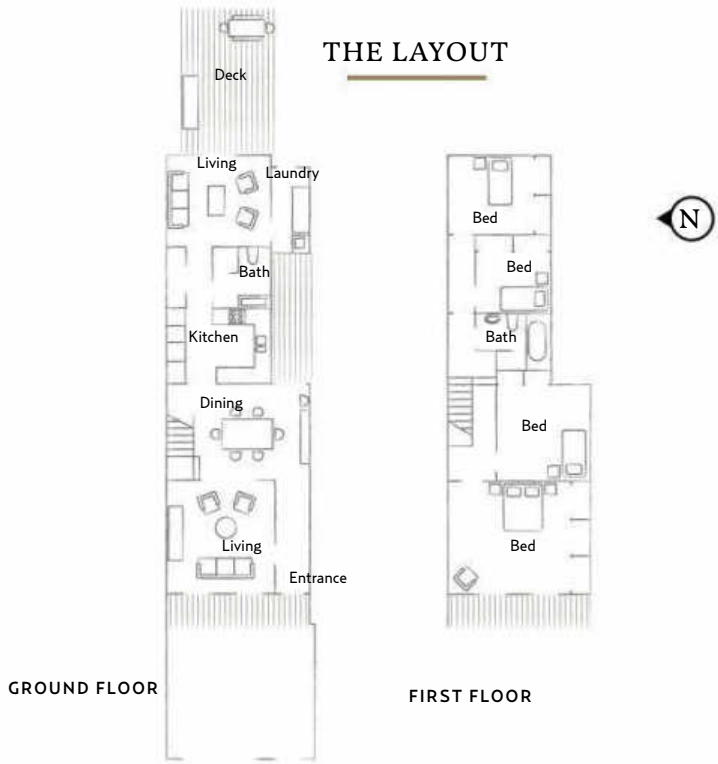


'We love our house. Our babies were born here and it holds so many memories of them growing up. I can't imagine us living anywhere else.' *Carol Sae-Yang*

NIA AND OWEN'S ROOM / "The children used to be in separate rooms but they love to play with each other so it makes sense to have them together," says Carol. Bed, Lilly & Lolly. Linen, Dwell Studio. Table, stool and map, Ikea. **Designer buy:** Eames Hang-It-All Classic, $325, Living Edge.
BATHROOM / The bathroom is a perfect balance of light and dark, with floor-to-ceiling tiles keeping things practical. Fixtures, Reece. Towels, Country Road.
MAIN BEDROOM / Carol bought the timber screen above the bed in Shanghai. Bed and side table, Spence & Lyda. Bench and wall lamp, Great Dane. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



THE LAYOUT





My creative space

"I was very comfortable curating the look for my home," says Carol. "I'd describe our style as contemporary, interesting and warm. When it came to choosing the colours and furnishings, the most important thing was that the house flowed from room to room. And, if I had my heart set on a piece but the budget couldn't stretch to cover it, I waited until it went on sale instead of choosing something else." **www.carolsaeyang.com.**

FEATURE PLANTS

BACKYARD
Bamboo palm (*Dypsis lutescens*)
Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
Giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*)
Agave attenuata





DECK / A place for long lunches, lazy barbecues and children's play dates, there's always a lot going on out here. Table, benches and white chairs, Tait. Coffee table and chairs, Spence & Lyda. Christopher Farr Cloth Palma outdoor fabric, Ascraft.
COURTYARD / Though built in 1985, the home fits in well with the area's historical terraces. The entry courtyard is paved in sandstone. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

◀ mainly to map out the kitchen finishes and help with decision-making."

Arent&Pyke sourced the handmade Moroccan tiles by Popham Design that feature in the kitchen and they work in beautifully with the black Japan-stained floorboards. The tiles also complement the wall colours, specified two years earlier by Nick's brother, Jonathan Richards, a designer with SJB Architects. "They go well together," says Carol. "With Arent&Pyke we were definitely talking the same language. Once we selected the tiles, everything just fell into place."

The casual, effortless decorating scheme reflects Carol's fabulous taste and stylist's eye. "Our furniture is a mix of vintage, modern and family hand-me-downs, but it all seems to work together," says Carol. "I inherited furniture from my mum when she passed away 10 years ago. They were sentimental pieces and I wasn't ready to part with them until recently, so all of the furniture we have now was deliberately curated for this house. I love that it's full of bits and pieces from our travels, and artworks from our friends and family – it makes me really happy." **H&G**

Arent&Pyke, Surry Hills, NSW; www.arentpyke.com.
SJB Architects, Surry Hills, NSW; www.sjb.com.au.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

When this Melbourne home flooded, its creative owners turned their misfortune into a win for the whole family.

STORY **DEBORAH GRANT** / STYLING **KIM DE WINTER**
PHOTOGRAPHY **LAUREN BAMFORD**



SIDEBOARD / *Charred Memories*, a collection of ceramics (left) by Tania Jeffery that were inspired by the Black Saturday fires, takes pride of place on the sideboard in the living room. Pots (centre and right) are mementos from a trip to Mexico. Painting by unknown artist. Sideboard custom made by KMJ Cabinets and Design.
ENTRANCE / Ceramicist Debbie Weinmann in the inviting new entrance to her home. An old railway cart has been repurposed as a perch for plants. Plant pots, Established for Design.
Smart buy: Steel plant stands, from $55/each, Mr Kitly.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.





'Our home is the perfect size for us now. There's plenty of room to spread out without getting lost.'
Debbie Weinmann

LIVING / **left and opposite** A monochromatic palette allows artworks to have maximum impact. Artworks by Rosella Namok (left), Mirka Moira (opposite, above fireplace) and John Kelly (opposite, rear wall). Sofa and cushions, Jardan. Rug, RC+D. Floor lamp, ISM Objects. Ping chandelier, Mance Design. Side table, AJAR Furniture & Design.
Smart buy: Knitted ottomans, $29/each, Kmart.
STUDIO / The renovation provided an opportunity to create a ceramics studio for Debbie. Above the sink, plastic buckets are hung from wall hooks (all from Ikea), a simple and effective way to stow tools tidily. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

The Weinmann family had no plans to renovate their home in Melbourne's south when they set off on holiday in January 2011. That all changed when, in their absence, a water pipe in the upstairs bathroom burst and flooded the first floor, causing the ceiling beneath to collapse and water to inundate the downstairs carpet. When the family arrived home after two weeks away, they walked into a mouldy disaster zone.

Looking on the bright side, Debbie and Jacob Weinmann, who live here with their three teenage children Benjamin, Ariella and Mia, used the water damage as a catalyst for a whole-home refresh.

Having lived in the three-bedroom property since 1997, Debbie and Jacob had a good understanding of what they needed. They called on architect Russell Casper of Casper Architecture & Design, whose plan was to put the house back together, with little improvements here and there. "Russell presented us with a sketch that won us over straight away," says Debbie, a ceramicist and part-time occupational therapist. "I pinned that image on my study wall and enjoyed watching it become a reality."

An 18-month renovation ensued. Some flooring and walls were removed but internally the structure is much the same. "Downstairs, we put in a new kitchen, opening it up into what used to be the kids' playroom," says Debbie. "We also created a ceramic studio for me in what was a separate laundry. It's now connected to the house and just manages to fit in the pottery wheel and all my equipment."



This is the life

"When we first drove down our street, we were enchanted by the streetscape," says Debbie. "The established plane trees formed a gorgeous canopy and all the houses were a similar style. We had inspected many houses over several months in our quest to find the perfect home, so we knew immediately that this was 'the one'. Three kids later, we use every room and nothing is too precious."



THE PALETTE

Dulux Natural White
interior, throughout

Try these accents

Porter's Paints Truffle

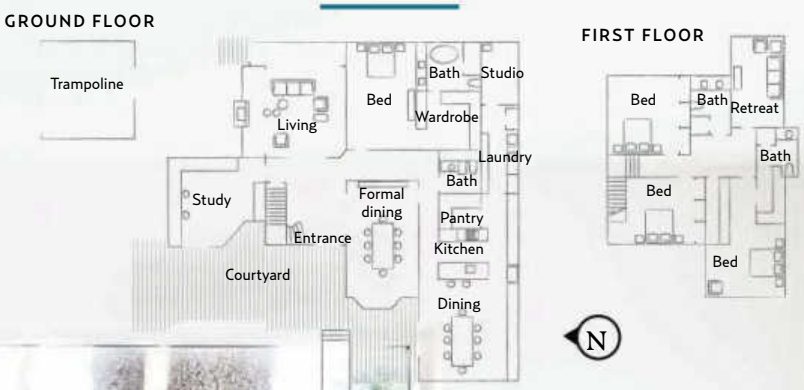
Murobond Paint Azure

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

DINING / The dining table also performs as an art and craft workspace for this creative family. Dining table, Mark Tuckey. Dining chairs, Poliform. Banquette and cushions, Jardan. Prints, Luke Furniture. Table lamp, Freedom (discontinued). Ceramics, Debbie Weinmann Ceramics. Vertical plant stand (in courtyard), Space.
Designer buy: Kenneth Cobonpue for Hive Crokkis floor vase, $994, Ke-zu. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



THE LAYOUT


GROUND FLOOR
Trampoline
Bed
Bath
Studio
Living
Wardrobe
Laundry
Bath
Study
Formal dining
Pantry
Entrance
Kitchen
Courtyard
Dining
N
FIRST FLOOR
Bed
Bath
Retreat
Bath
Bed
Bed



KITCHEN / "The kitchen/dining room is probably the most used room in the house," says Debbie. Coco pendant light, Cult. Jaipur reconstituted-stone benchtop and splashback in Thyme, Stone Italiana. Stools, AJAR Furniture & Design. Artwork by Rosella Namok. Stumpies stool (in hall), Pop & Scott. American-oak flooring, Harper & Sandilands.
FOYER / The spacious foyer creates a grand first impression. Rug, RC+D. Console, Zuster. Artworks by Chris Langlois (on wall) and Kathryn Ryan (on console). Ceramics by Debbie Weinmann Ceramics.
MIA'S ROOM / "The decor of each child's room reflects their personality," says Debbie. Light, stool and cushions, Crate Expectations. Bedlinen, Hunting for George. Carpet, Melbourne Floors. Artwork by Marianna Marx. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

My creative space

"Having a studio at home is wonderful," says Debbie. "I love that I can just pop in and work on my ceramics whenever I have a free minute. My ceramics are meant to be used and enjoyed. I held my first group exhibition in December 2014 and had fun selling my ceramics in a pop-up shop. I get a real buzz from people enjoying my work and taking it home with them."
www.debbieweinmannceramics.com.



Creative thinking

American-oak floorboards in Mink Grey were treated to a matt finish to highlight the grain. Scratches and dust are also less visible.

◀ The main bedroom was always on ground level, but converting a smaller adjacent bedroom into a walk-through wardrobe and ensuite bathroom has transformed it into a lovely main suite. Upstairs, two new bedrooms and a bathroom were added and one of the existing two bedrooms converted into a teenage retreat. "Now all three children have their privacy, plus somewhere to hang out with their friends," says Debbie.

Russell advised on the major design decisions, such as replacing all the timber-framed windows with larger steel-framed ones to allow more light in throughout. He also suggested removing the mantel on the fireplace and cladding it in bluestone tiles.

Interior designer Anouche Levy from Anouche Design stepped in to assist with the selection of furnishings and fabrics. "She was an enormous help; I bounced a lot of ideas off her and she gave me directions on places to source products," says Debbie.

The renovation has changed the way the Weinmanns use their home. "Before, we had a country-style kitchen we loved and carpet throughout. In those days we spent a lot of time outside," says Debbie. "Now the house has easy-care floorboards and a contemporary feel that lends itself to having people over, so we love it even more." **H&G**

Casper Architecture & Design, Malvern, Victoria; (03) 9500 9599 or casperarchitecture.com.au. Anouche Design, Toorak, Victoria; 0413 032 777.



Two TRUE

The skills of two generations were brought to bear on this Brisbane renovation, with delightful results.

STORY **RACHAEL BERNSTONE** / STYLING **KATE NIXON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**

This is the life

This cleverly renovated home is the perfect antidote to Terry and Charlie McQuillan's busy working lives. The couple loves entertaining: they can now open up the kitchen and dining space to the back deck and let the breezes flow throughout the home. When desired they can also retreat into more intimate spaces, as sliding wall panels and layers of curtains can be arranged to create cosy spaces in winter.

Photo Credit: xxxx



REAR ELEVATION / With a year-long renovation behind her, Charlie enjoys the home's new connection to the garden. Outdoor furniture and ceiling fan, Bunnings. Landscape design by Cactus & Hill. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

FEATURE PLANTS

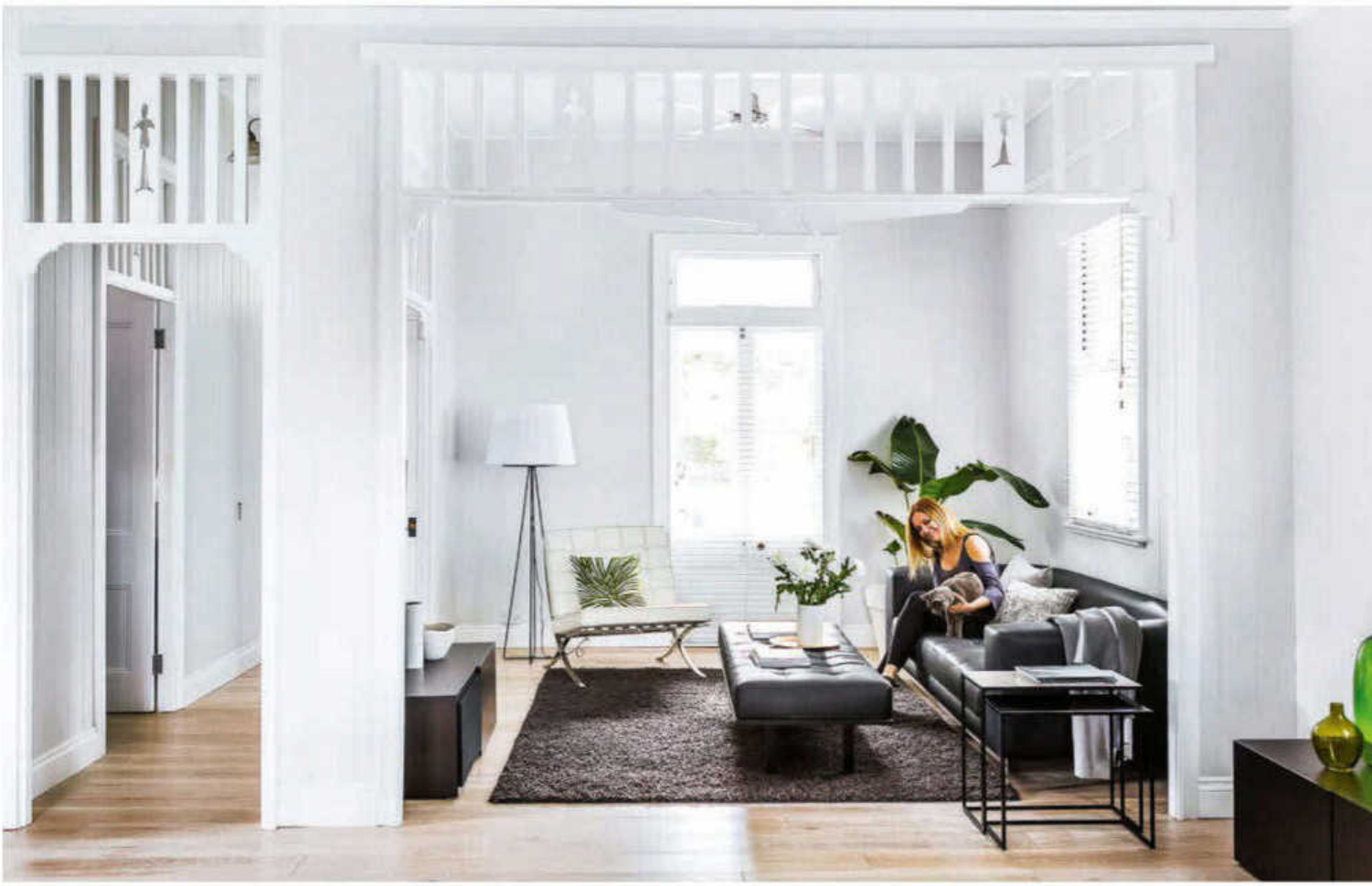
FRONT YARD
Orange jessamine (*Murraya paniculata*)
***Heliconia psittacorum* 'Golden Torch'**
SIDE OF HOUSE
Lilly pilly hedge (*Syzygium*)
BACK YARD
***Zoysia tenuifolia* lawn**

Photo Credit: xxxx

Our creative life

In their first renovation as a couple, Terry and Charlie collaborated to create a home that is simple and serene. As the architect, Terry focused on spaces and flow. "I did a lot of modelling to work out the best places to sit where neighbours can't see us," he says. Interior designer Charlie produced and framed her own artworks to adorn the walls and mixed a custom shade for new exterior sections, cheekily dubbed Charlie Brown.





Renovating on a shoestring often means settling for less, but in the case of this talented Brisbane couple, their hard work exceeded even their own expectations. Architect Terry and interior designer Charlie met when they worked at the same architecture firm, and they bought this traditional Queenslander in a northern Brisbane suburb in 2006. Terry, a director at Bureau Proberts, had previously lived nearby and liked the suburb's easy access to the city.

"I used to run past this house when I lived nearby but I wouldn't have recognised it," says Terry. "The people we bought it from had changed the roof, reinstated the bullnose verandah and painted it all white."

Built in 1906, the traditional cottage with picture-book facade – including french doors and latticework verandah screens – has a central hallway with two bedrooms on one side and a living room opposite. A 1960s addition at the rear contained the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, with external stairs leading to the undercroft and a lush tropical garden.

Terry says the rear section was poorly designed and built, and the indoor spaces didn't connect well to the outside. The main bedroom faced south, and the extension, while north-facing, had small windows and a sloping roof that excluded natural light and cooling breezes.

"We determined that the most important part of the brief was to open up the rear, to create a previously non-existent connection with the ▶

'We love how light and airy the house is. It's open to the tropical outdoors but still private.' ***Charlie McQuillan***

LIVING / Charlie is thrilled with the renovation, as is Mischka the Russian Blue; Terry built low windows into the staircase so she can look out. "The house was designed for the cat first, then the humans!" says Charlie. Sofa, Get Squared. White Barcelona chair bought at auction. Low cabinets, Ikea. Throw, Kova Lifestyle. Flowers by Phoebe Stephens Flowers.
Smart buy: Astorp floor lamp, $30 (base), Ikea.
ENTRANCE / The picture-postcard facade of this classic urban Queenslander includes french doors and latticework verandah screens. New chamfer boards clad both the old and new sections. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

THE LAYOUT

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR





leafy suburban views to the rear and the backyard," says Terry. "We also wanted an outdoor entertaining space that would connect seamlessly to the indoors."

Keen to minimise costs, Terry and Charlie lived in the front part of the house throughout, as did Terry's parents, who relocated from Rockhampton for the duration of the project. Terry's father, Vince, a retired builder, oversaw construction during the week; Terry and Charlie pitched in and got their hands dirty on weekends.

"Dad had spent a lot of time building steel sheds but there was a bit of a leap from there to building a house, in terms of getting the detailing right," says Terry. "It was a matter of working inwards from the rigid steel frame to add the warmth and comfort you want in a domestic interior, so that's where my expertise as an architect and Charlie's as an interior designer came into play."

Initially expected to take four months, the build took nearly one year to complete. Despite the challenges of living at such close quarters – the two couples shared a temporary kitchen and bathroom – and the hardships of living on a building site, the arrangement worked well overall and the results are well worth the sacrifices.

Now, the original cottage is separated from the addition by a breezeway on the western side, an airy space that brings light into the whole house. The back section contains an open-plan kitchen and dining area, a second bathroom off the breezeway, and a resort-style main bedroom suite with a bathtub perched on the edge of the deck. On the lower level there's the laundry, plus a new garage, laundry and garden terrace.



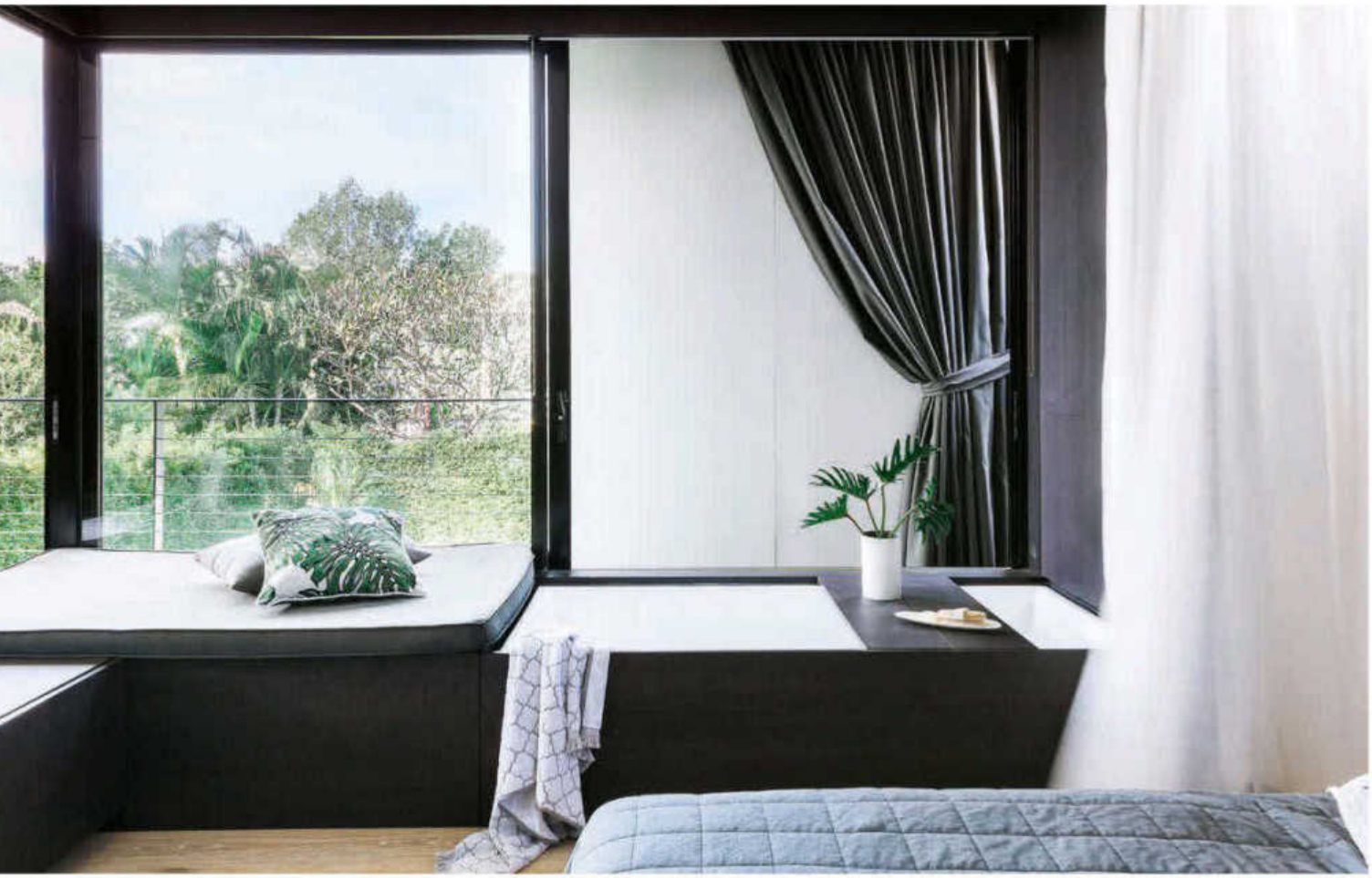
Creative thinking

Shallow Ikea shelves were used to create wine storage behind sliding doors.

KITCHEN / Dark joinery and integrated appliances give the kitchen a sophisticated, streamlined aesthetic. New Age Veneers Navurban joinery in Ashgrove by Ashmore Joinery. Planter pot, Bunnings. Vase, Matt Blatt. Napkins and handtowel, Kova Lifestyle. American white-oak flooring, NS Timber Flooring. Flowers from Phoebe Stephens Flowers. **Designer buy:** Kartell Masters high stools, $575/each, Space.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



'When we don't have guests, the whole house becomes one open space.' *Terry McQuillan*



◀ Chic and simple, the decor belies the huge effort that went into the project. The owners have deployed a striking two-toned palette throughout, with lighter shades demarcating the old section of the house and darker tones signalling the new.

The house may look simple at first viewing but a closer inspection reveals clever and custom-made design solutions. These include sliding panels that can be moved to divide the old and new sections depending on the season, and to provide privacy around the bath. More panels beside the kitchen conceal the wine cellar and reveal an art wall that showcases Charlie's photography and paintings. Access to the lower level is now via a new staircase tucked behind kitchen joinery.

Terry and Charlie couldn't be happier with their stylish and functional home, especially its inside-out connections and abundant light. "And the amount of breeze is amazing," says Terry. "Now that the rear of the house opens up, it cools down in minutes."

"Obviously, if a family was living here we would have designed it differently, to give more privacy between the back deck and main bedroom," he says, "but we love the connection of our bedroom to the outdoors and the layers of curtains allow us to control the privacy. So for the two of us, it's perfect." **H&G**

Bureau Proberts, Brisbane, Queensland; (07) 3221 0672 or bureauproberts.com.au.



ENSUITE / "A bath with a view is something we like when we stay at hotels," says Terry. "We thought, why not have it at home?" When not in use, the tub is concealed by timber covers. Print cushion, Temple & Webster. Towel, Kova Lifestyle.
UPSTAIRS DECK / Charlie and Terry take it easy. Large planter, Masters Home Improvement. Coffee table, Bunnings.
MAIN BEDROOM / Charlie crafted the whimsical light sculptures over the bed from wire. Quilted bedcover, Temple & Webster. Basket and throw, Kova Lifestyle. Rug, Ikea. Windows, G. James Glass & Aluminium.
Smart buy: Soft rope basket, from $50, Kova Lifestyle.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon
living, kitchen, bedroom

Dulux Vivid White
fretwork and trim

Dulux Grey Pebble
front exterior



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow. Currency conversion correct at time of printing.



DINING / Ian Webber, the owner of Hunters + Collectors furniture store, has incorporated some of the shop's standout pieces into his home. The wall panels are doors from the 1960s, while the table was assembled from spare parts, then set alight to achieve a vintage look (don't try this at home!). Grant Featherston chairs, at left, are teamed with Mario Bellini chairs. Pendant lights by Louis Weisdorf (foreground) and Louis Poulsen.
TV ROOM / Gio the Abyssinian cat perches on the Adrian Pearsall sofa, which was reupholstered in a Kvadrat fabric. Artwork by Maurice van Essche.
Designer buy: AJ table lamp, $1505, Living Edge.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Eclectic avenue

Mid-century design and Oriental antiques meet in the home of this Perth collector, which unfolds like a multi-era object gallery.

STORY & STYLING **ANNA FLANDERS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **ANGELITA BONETTI**



'Mid-century pieces are often treated as objects you look at and can't touch. I have vintage Danish glassware I use every day; so I say use it and enjoy it.' *Ian Webber*

THE PALETTE

Dulux Vivid White
interior, throughout

Try these accents

Haymes Paint Sangria

Taubmans Minted Lemon



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



GALLERY / Ian puts his feet up on his twin Sergio Rodrigues coffee tables. Douglas Snelling Saran chair and Barcelona day bed bought at auction. Sofa upholstered in Husk fabric by Warwick Fabrics. Large artwork, Waldemar Kolbusz.
LIVING / A Kofod-Larsen rosewood sideboard displays a Kaj Franck Kremlin Bells decanter and Alessi Crevasse copper vase.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



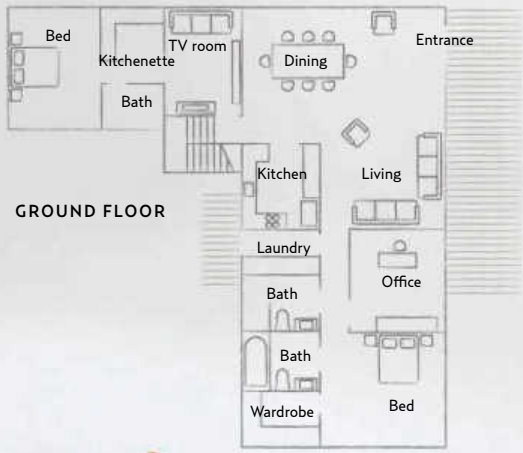
When Ian Webber moved into his brown brick house in Perth's western suburbs in 2011, the first thing he did was strip it bare. "It's 1960s and not a design classic, but it does have the best qualities from that period – big windows and good light," he says. "I painted everything out to keep it clean. My home is not about the architecture; it's about a large space and blank canvas for my things."

As the owner of Perth's iconic Hunters + Collectors mid-century furniture store, Ian has a lot of 'things', namely furniture, art and glass. Fortunately, the two-storey building has plenty of space to display the pieces he brings home to add to his private collection. To heighten the gallery-like look, Ian ripped up the old carpet and painted the concrete with a white paving paint, then brightened the beige walls with a crisp white. He also squared off a brick arch between the kitchen and dining area and rendered it, making the opening a feature.

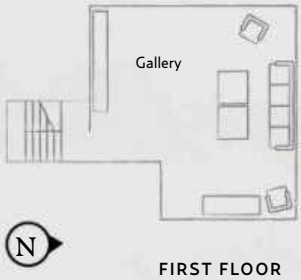
On the ground floor is a central kitchen with an L-shaped open-plan living/dining area wrapped around it. The dining table is where Ian spends most of his time 'tinkering' with mid-century pieces. Nearby, a hallway leads to his private wing, complete with home office and a main bedroom with ensuite. On the opposite side is a wing for guests with a TV room, kitchenette, bedroom, bathroom and its own entrance. Upstairs is one large living/gallery space with large windows that allow plenty of natural light and capture Perth's south-westerly breezes, essential for summer cooling.

Throughout the home, Ian's objects and curios are layered in a way that creates interest and warmth. With their textures and tones, they look great; but they also tell the story of his design history. ▶

THE LAYOUT



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

This is the life

A serious buyer of mid-century furniture, glass and objects for 15 years, Ian has brought many special pieces home to stay. "I don't like invented interiors, where someone has bought everything at once and there's no history," he says. "I have pieces I'll never part with, while others change and evolve with time." His current favourite is a blue cat sculpture (above) designed by Italian architect and industrial designer Giò Ponti, after whom his cat is named.









LIVING / opposite and bottom right The sofa was originally designed for Tullamarine Airport. Eero Saarinen Tulip table, Dedece. The glass-topped B&B Italia coffee table takes centrestage. Clement Meadmore sling chair and Artemide standing lamp. In the corner of the room is a rare Holm Sorensen floor lamp, found in a farm shed in Denmark. **MAIN BEDROOM /** A place for rest and art appreciation. Grant Featherston chair and Chinese altar table. Cushion, ClothFabric. The sculpted figures are Ian's own handiwork. **GALLERY /** The Tizio lamp was found on a sourcing trip. Robert Stennett for Wedgwood glass and 1962 chess set. Artwork by Robert Juniper. **KITCHEN /** Sleek and simple, the stainless-steel bench is from Ikea. Vintage transistor radio. **Designer buy:** Elektra Micro Casa coffee machine, $1961, Caffè Italia. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186. ▶



MAIN BEDROOM / Louis Poulsen PH5 lamps are paired with Chinese screens and tables. Linen throw, Plane Tree Farm.
STAIRCASE / Mahogany and white together create a gallery feel. Artwork by Guy Grey-Smith.
COURTYARD / The mid-century-style rock wall was installed by Ian. The table and chairs were a roadside find. Cushions, ClothFabric.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



◀ "In the 1960s my grandfather started Webber Furniture [now Webbers], selling English oak and traditional pieces, then Danish-modern pieces from the mid-'60s," he says. "My father and uncle took over and today Webbers is a contemporary furniture store. Interestingly enough, some of the pieces I'm selling in my shop are pieces my grandfather stocked back then."

Ian's background explains his no-rules approach to decorating and his belief in mixing styles and eras. In his living room he has teamed a Persian rug with a reupholstered white-leather modernist sofa and a mid-century Danish sideboard. His bedroom features contemporary Asian and antique Chinese pieces with a Grant Featherston chair. The dining area has a homemade table that was 'antiqued' in Ian's workshop. Also in this space is a tracking system for hanging pendant lights. "I didn't really think about how to decorate my house," he says. "The track lighting was installed because I have an obsession with lights and I like being able to change them around. It's all about impermanence."

While the dining table, Chinese furniture and Persian rug are unexpected elements, they reflect the early years of Hunters + Collectors, which was initially going to sell a mix of modern Chinese and mid-century items. "If you look at the homes of the great designers you see that they have eclectic interiors, even mixing in local Arts and Crafts finds as well as ethnic objects," he says. "Mid-century, and any good design, will stand with anything – such as a mid-century Italian light on a Victorian side table. And I personally like the contradiction." **H&G**

My creative space

Hunters + Collectors is a design destination in Perth. "When it launched in 2008 there were no other stores restoring mid-century furniture and selling showroom-quality pieces," says Ian. "There was no plan. A space came up, I rented it and people liked it. Suddenly, I had a business."
Hunters + Collectors; (08) 9385 2985 or www.huntersandcollectorsinteriors.com.au.

FEATURE PLANTS

COURTYARD
Agave
Madagascar palm (*Pachypodium lamerei*)
***Sansevieria trifasciata* 'Laurentii'**
Sansevieria cylindrica



Black & white

APPROACH

A verdant garden is the ultimate backdrop for a Victorian home that explores a monochromatic palette, with dazzling results.

STORY **ALAANA COBON** / STYLING **HEATHER NETTE KING** / PHOTOGRAPHY **DEREK SWALWELL**

This is the life

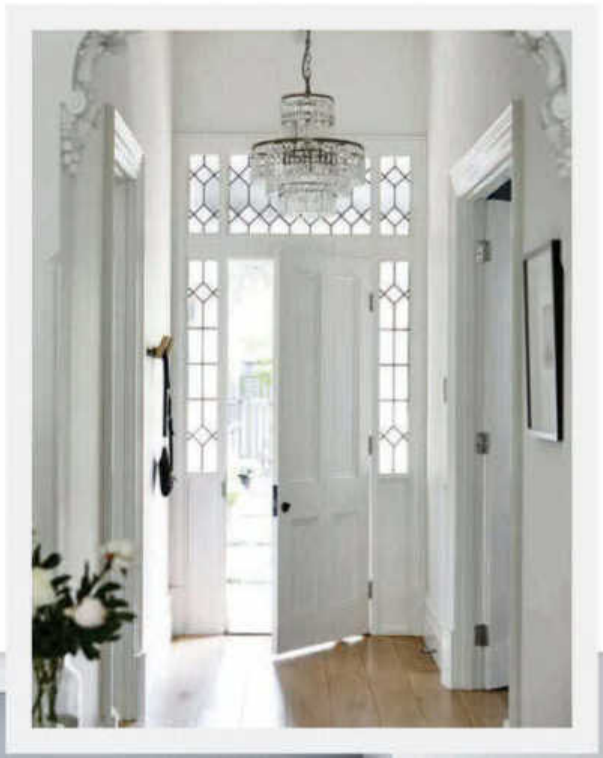
"We like that our home is close to cafes, shops and transport. It's convenient for the whole family," says owner and interior decorator Lynn Cheong. "We all try to eat together during the week so we can catch up on each other's news." The leafy outlook from the dining room is a natural extension of the pared-back look throughout. "I wanted a palette that wouldn't date," says Lynn. "Black, white, charcoal and timber are easy to live with."

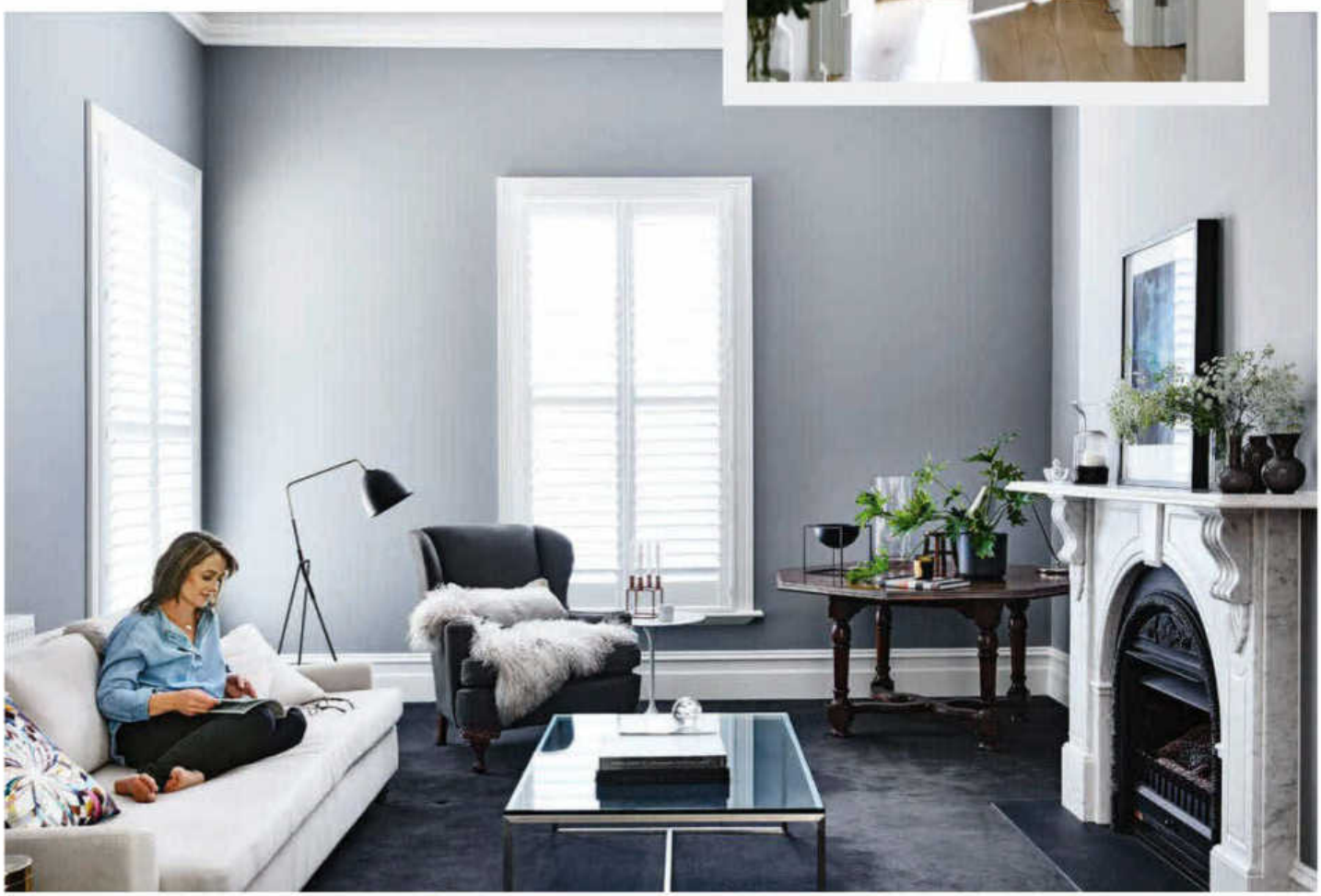


DINING / The sculptural qualities of the gracilis bamboo set up a spectacular picture window. Custom-made oak table, Arteveneta. Chairs, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Brokis Shadows Set Free 5 Glass Lamps pendant, Luke Furniture.
Smart buy: Henning conical glass vase, $50, Country Road.
HALL / Tall steel doors demarcate the original part of the house from the new section. Beyond this is a 5m-high void and the family room. Console table, Blu Dot.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

The Melbourne home of interior decorator Lynn Cheong is a shining example of her masterful style. From the dark-painted front door through to the expansive, black-framed glazing at the rear, the home is crisp and cleanlined, with plenty of soul. Lynn and her husband Brett purchased the 984m² property in March 2012 for themselves and their adult sons, Daniel and Mitchell. It was unrenovated but had so much appeal their builder and architect began working on the plans before the keys were even handed over. "The block's large size provided us with plenty of options, renovation-wise," says Lynn. "In the end we kept the Victorian front section of the house and removed the extension from another era at the back." What stands in its place is a light-filled family zone with kitchen, dining and living areas that open to the outdoor entertaining area and fireplace.

More than 127 years of heritage have been cherished in the renovation. Leadlight windows were commissioned to reinvigorate the entrance, two fireplaces are functional again, an arch in the hallway was reinstated and the ceiling height returned to the lofty proportions of the original home. In the front section, the main bedroom (with new walk-in wardrobe and ensuite), living room and study highlight the grace and beauty of Victorian flourishes. ▶







KITCHEN / A metal frame at the end of the island bench cleverly incorporates black into the mainly white kitchen scheme. Benchtop in Caesarstone Snow. Calacatta marble splashback.
Designer buy: Last Minute polyethylene bar stools, $845/each, Hub Furniture Lighting Living.
FRONT DOOR / While the exterior facing is painted a bold black, the interior side of the front door is a calming white. Door and side panels custom-made by Steptoe's Renovation Supplies. Leadlight detailing by Victorian Leadlights. Chandelier from Antique Light Co.
LIVING / Lynn relaxes on her Pierre and Charlotte sofa. Antique armchair and dining table. Floor lamp, Great Dane. Artwork by Sophia Szilagyi. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.





◀ At the end of the entry hall, black steel-framed glass doors denote the transition from old to new, with steps down to the kitchen, dining and family area. The change in level serves two purposes: it creates a spacious 3m-high ceiling in the new family hub and drops the floor to ground level for a seamless connection to the backyard and outdoor entertaining areas.

For all the home's beautiful details, it's also practical. For example, a single garage at the side of the house provides access to a laundry, which then leads through a butler's pantry into the kitchen. "That was a priority," says Lynn. "I love being able to drive in with my shopping and take everything straight into the pantry." An existing double garage at the rear was also retained. To help disguise it, the exterior was painted in a dark grey that allows the greenery around it to be highlighted.

The garden is visible from almost every room in the house; and one of the most breathtaking features is the full-height picture window in the dining area. "It's a wonderful feature that our architect had from the very first drawings," says Lynn. "We never changed it, knowing it would be a great outcome." ▶

Cortese Architects, Camberwell, Victoria; (03) 9813 1727 or www.cortesearchitects.com.au. Lowther Builders, Nunawading, Victoria; (03) 8833 0300 or www.lowther.com.au.

'I wanted a classic but contemporary palette. I love colour but get over it quickly, so a monochromatic scheme was the way to go.' *Lynn*

KITCHEN / Black elements, in the form of lighting and bar stools, add a contrasting form in the white kitchen area. Track lights from Euroluce.

FAMILY / above right and opposite A marble plinth along the fireplace wall creates an enduring sense of luxury. Sofa, Jardan. Armchairs, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Coffee table, Space. Rug, Cadrys. *Moonlight #1* artwork by Anne Judell (above fireplace), framed poster (next to built-in shelves), PK CPH.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

My creative space

"I've worked in the interiors industry for 30 years," says Lynn. "A few years ago I started G&C Design, specialising in small residential projects. Obviously I had very clear ideas for the fitout of this place but collaborated with our builder, Jeff Lowther of Lowther Builders. He helped me create a wonderful home with space, comfort and natural light."
G&C Design, Camberwell, Victoria; lynn@gandcdesign.com.au.

Dulux Natural White
interior, main walls

Dulux Timeless Grey
living room, study

Dulux Monument
garage







+ *Take a tour* *Lynn's lovely home is one of six gorgeous Melbourne properties in the 2016 St Joseph's Open House fundraising tour, Sunday March 20. Tickets are $45, available online from February 15 and cover home entry, shuttle bus service and afternoon tea. Funds raised support the school's education programs. www.openhouses.org.au.*

GUESTROOM / Popular with relatives, this self-contained space has its own bathroom. Table, cushion and throw, Country Road. Poster, Super Rural. The star cushion was bought in Paris.
MAIN BEDROOM / Lynn blended old and new by sourcing a vintage marble fireplace surround and adding contemporary accessories. Gubi mirror and timber hand, Cult.
Smart buy: Matisse cotton throw, $149, Abode Living.
STUDY / The warm grey on Lynn's home office wall makes it a calm and contemplative space. Hay table and chair, Cult. Floor lamp, Artemide. Cowhide, NSW Leather.
Smart buy: Danish furniture posters, from about $26/each, PK CPH. **ENSUITE /** Hexagonal honed Carrara marble tiles from Perini Tiles make for an exquisite feature wall. Kaldewei bath, Reece.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

H&G

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THE LAYOUT

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



See this home's beautiful garden on page 115

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Plot a course through a lush suburban garden

A swing invites contemplation of this leafy garden in Victoria. Plantings at the base of the liquidambar include *Plectranthus ecklonii* and hellebores.

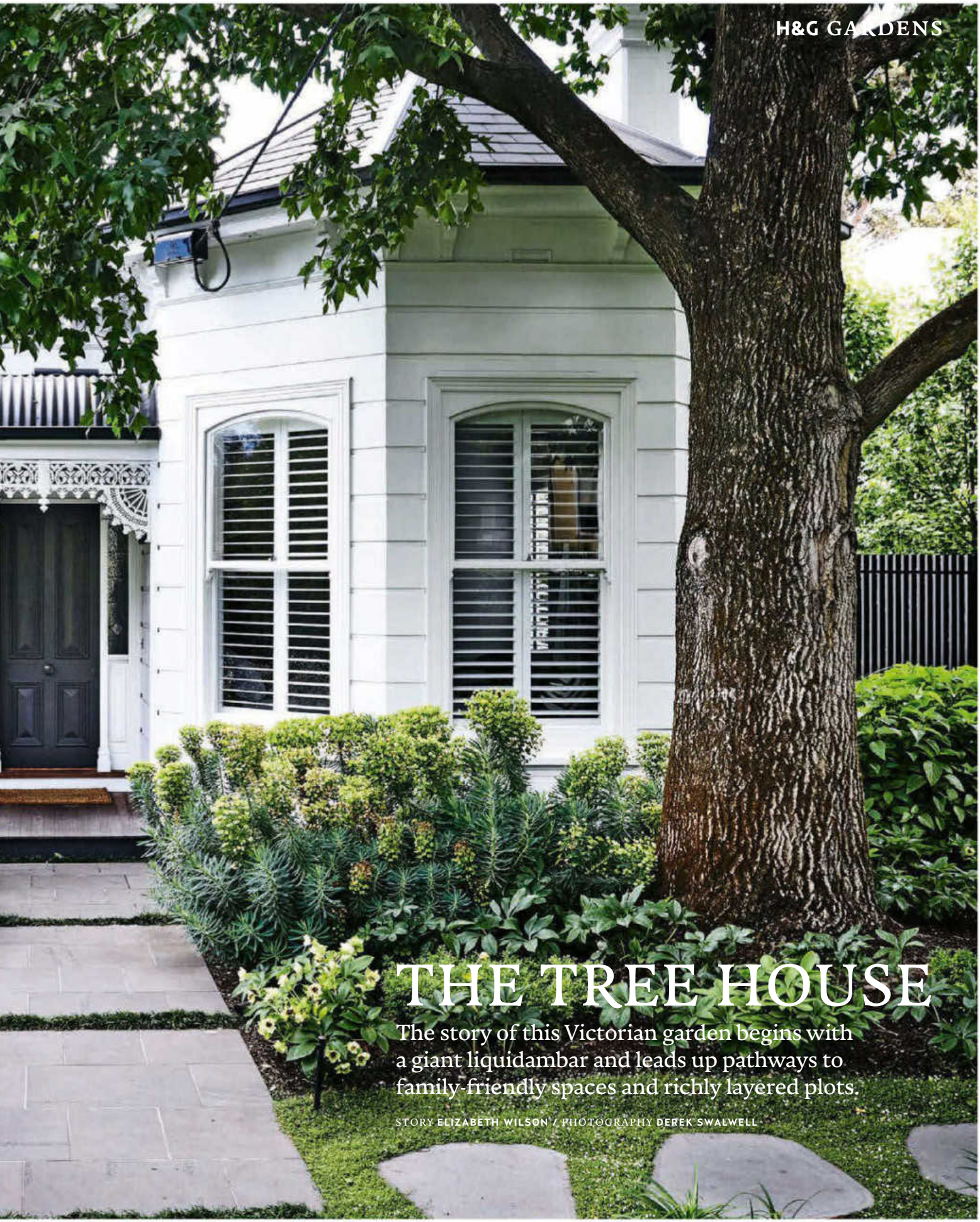
Photograph by Derek Swalwell. Swing from House of Orange.

GARDENS

DESIGN INSPIRATION / TOP FIVE SHRUBS / CLIPPINGS



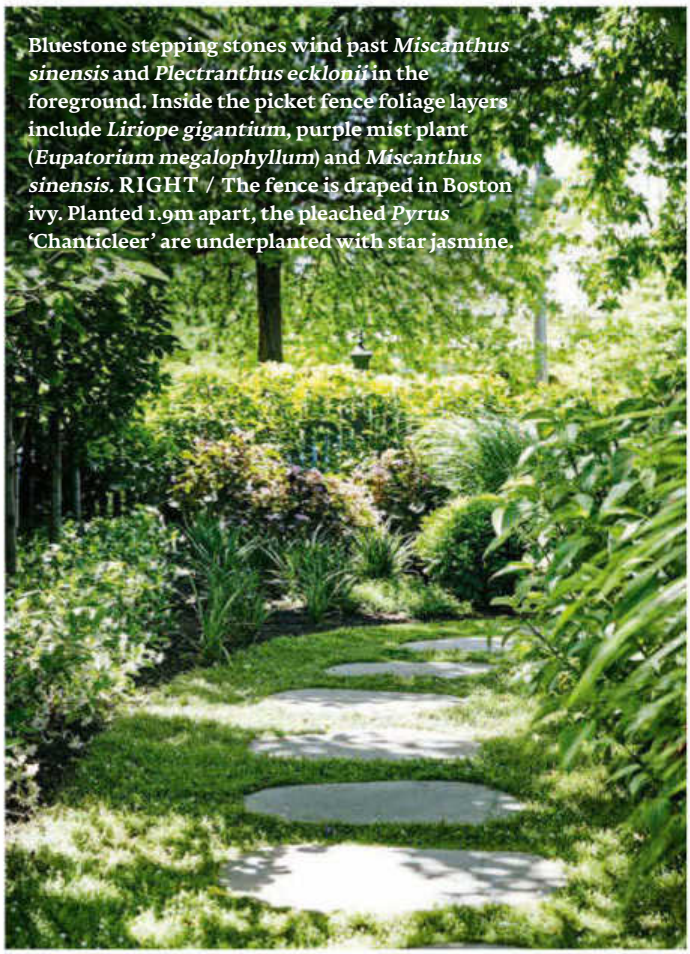
Framing the facade of this Victorian-era home is the family's beloved liquidambar tree. Strips of dwarf mondo grass divide the bluestone path, while intersecting freeform pavers are surrounded by *Pratia*. On the left of the path is a white-flowered *Arthropodium*.



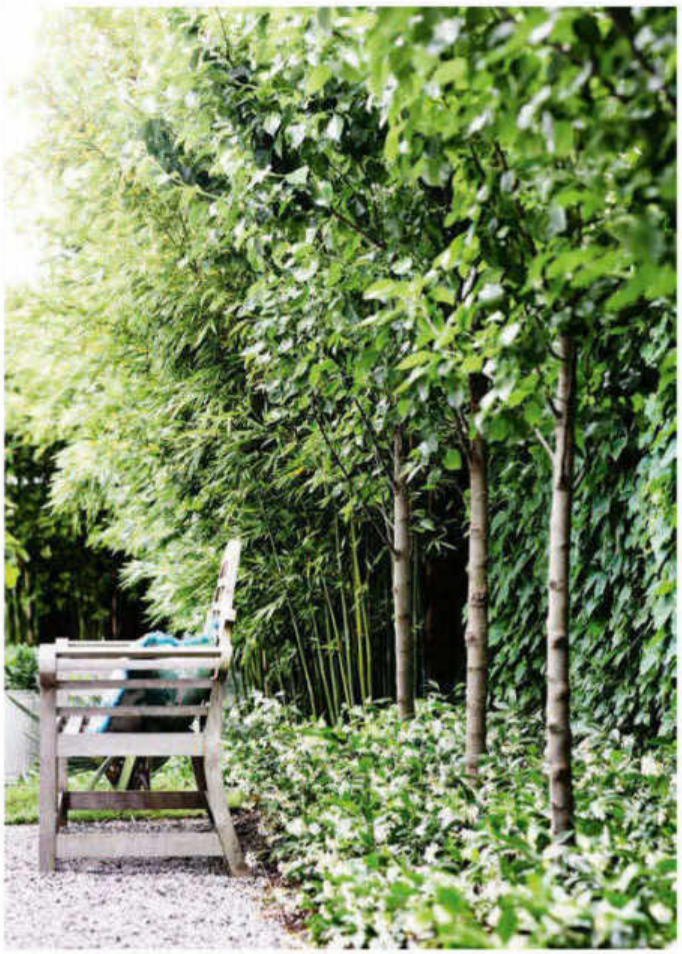
THE TREE HOUSE

The story of this Victorian garden begins with a giant liquidambar and leads up pathways to family-friendly spaces and richly layered plots.

STORY **ELIZABETH WILSON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **DEREK SWALWELL**



Bluestone stepping stones wind past *Miscanthus sinensis* and *Plectranthus ecklonii* in the foreground. Inside the picket fence foliage layers include *Liriope gigantium*, purple mist plant (*Eupatorium megalophyllum*) and *Miscanthus sinensis*. RIGHT / The fence is draped in Boston ivy. Planted 1.9m apart, the pleached *Pyrus* 'Chanticleer' are underplanted with star jasmine.



On summer evenings, when the heat dissipates and the air is infused with the scent of jasmine, Lynn Cheong makes a beeline for the swing hanging from the old liquidambar tree in the front garden of her Melbourne home. Here, she likes to sit and water her plants while marvelling at the beauty around her. "It's a gorgeous place to be at the end of the day, and I can reach most of the garden with the hose from that spot," says Lynn, a keen gardener who, with her husband Brett, derives great satisfaction from nurturing and observing the changes in their verdant 1000m^2 plot.

The garden is so abundant and established it looks as though it's been the life-long companion to the Victorian-era weatherboard home it surrounds. In fact, it's a recent development, installed in tandem with the home's renovation two years ago (see page 106). The Cheongs retained the Victorian facade and added a contemporary extension at the rear, and wanted their garden to reflect this architectural narrative. Landscape architect Ben Scott of Ben Scott Garden Design was enlisted to help realise their vision."We wanted a traditional garden out the front, but relaxed and meandering, not a stiff Victorian garden with hedging," says Lynn. "Out the back we wanted something more contemporary, with lots of screening for privacy."

Ben was thrilled with the brief because it reflected his response to the site. For him, the design had to start with the two mature trees – the liquidambar and a giant Canadian maple – in the front garden. "These two trees dictated an informal, free-flowing design and I felt we should go for a botanical display with a layering of foliage and flowers rather than anything too formal," he says.

In response, Ben has created lush garden beds at the front featuring plants such as euphorbia, hydrangeas, hellebores (*Helleborus orientalis*), arthropodium, *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy 'and snowball bush (*Viburnum opulus*). These plants are all tough and well placed to cope with the lower light levels under the tree canopy. Happily, they are also some of Lynn's best-loved blooms.

A fan of white-flowering plants, Lynn rates oak-leaf hydrangeas and snowball bush as her all-time favourites. Ben has mixed these leafy, old-fashioned plants with ornamental grasses such as *Miscanthus gracillimus* and *Lomandra tanika*. "The grasses give it a slightly ▶







A garden of contrasts that works harmoniously



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT /
The foliage of *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy'. Pink-petalled *Hydrangea macrophylla*. A concrete pot filled with *Sedum* sits on a bluestone plinth. The broccoli-like flowerheads of *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' turn from green to pink to rust. Tufts of *Lomandra* 'Tanika'. *Verbena bonariensis*. A chair to pause in at the entrance to the house. *Hydrangea macrophylla*.











Lynn tends her vegetable plot, which is set in a recycled apple crate. Loose grey granite aggregate is laid in this area; a fan aloe, with its spiky tentacle-like leaves stands at the top of the stairs. **OPPOSITE** /Open lawn leads from the outdoor area, which has a cement-rendered fireplace and built-in seating. Ornamental grape (*Vitis coignetiae*) hugs the pergola while gracilis bamboo ensures privacy.

◀ more modern feel," he says. "They also provide a link to what's happening in the back garden, where it's all clean-lined and contemporary."

Instead of lawn, Ben planted out the front garden with *Pratia*, a native groundcover that is dusted with white flowers in late spring/early summer. Large, free-form bluestone pavers meander through the *Pratia*, creating pathways that look as though they belong in a fairytale.

The rear garden is streamlined and geometric with lawn at its centre, surrounded by layered boundary plantings. Slender weavers bamboo (*Bambusa textilis* 'Gracilis'), a non-invasive clumping bamboo that grows up to 7m, was planted along the northern boundary to screen out neighbours. Lynn was unsure about the bamboo at first, but is delighted with the result. "We don't need to close the blinds now because the bamboo gives us complete privacy."

On the opposite boundary is a row of Hills fig (*Ficus* 'Flash') underplanted with Asiatic jasmine. Along the back wall of the house Ben has planted a row of gardenias (*Gardenia florida*), while an ornamental grape grows over the pergola in the alfresco eating area.

The side gardens also play an important role in the story of this garden. On the north side are Lynn's all-important raised vegie gardens. Made from recycled apple crates and sourced from The Little Vegie Patch Co, these boxes are filled with herbs such as thyme, parsley, oregano, coriander and mint. "We love being able to run outside and grab some herbs while we're cooking," says Lynn, who also grows vegetables in two more boxes at the rear of the property.

Every part of this garden is used, gazed upon, cherished. "It's a garden with lots of interest and it changes a lot throughout the seasons," says Lynn. "We love the fact that we look onto greenery from every vantage point in our home." **H&G**

Ben Scott Garden Design, Hawthorn, Victoria; (03) 9819 6566 or www.benscott.com.au.



clippings



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BOX OF TREASURES

A perfect place to store seed packets, this plywood Planter Box, $95, has six compartments and a sliding lid that can take a padlock if needed. Engraved with a design of quirky characters in sepia, it's as cute as it is useful. Foolhouse; www.foolhouse.com.au.



DESERT BEAUTY

Showcasing thousands of stunning, quirky and hardy specimens, the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden has become a beacon for lovers of native plants. Located at Port Augusta, at the top of South Australia's Spencer Gulf, the 250ha garden is run by Port Augusta council staff and 30 passionate volunteers. All the plants have been selected from areas with less than 250mm annual rainfall. Sturt's desert pea – the floral emblem of South Australia – is a major drawcard. www.aalbg.sa.gov.au.

3 OF A KIND... BEAUT TOOLS



Sculptural and elegant, this handmade scoop, $89, by artisan toolmaker Grafa, features a bronze head and spotted-gum handle. Koskela; www.koskela.com.au.



These sinuous steel scissors, $45, sit comfortably in the hand and are perfect for cutting stems or twine. The Potting Shed; www.thepottingshedtools.com.au.



The ergonomic TruGrip cork handle on Fiskars' Quantum Bypass Pruner, $69, is designed to become softer with every use. Bunnings; www.bunnings.com.au.

ALL-IN-ONE

Space-challenged gardeners can now join the home-grown vegie movement. Vegepod is a compact, self-watering garden system that features a hinged mesh cover to protect plants. It's easy to assemble and comes in three sizes. From $149; www.vegepod.com.au.

Produced by Elizabeth Wilson. Photograph by Scott Hawkins (MIFGS).

IN THE GARDEN

SHRUB NUB



Top-performing shrubs can be the unsung heroes of a garden, providing screening, colour and soothing backdrops to plots big and small, writes **Helen Young.**



Plants improve over time, as breeders develop species with bigger and better flowers, as well as new colours. Breeders are also offering more compact plants that suit smaller gardens and our demand for decorator pots. Here are my top five:

Tibouchina 'Peace Baby'

A favourite in my garden, this compact bush, about 1m high and wide, excels on all fronts. It flowers for months on end, is problem free, and grows quickly. The flowers are huge in proportion to the plant, making a flamboyant display. 'Peace Baby' is white with pinky-purple stamens, while 'Cool Baby' has blushing pink blooms on a smaller bush. It prefers moist, well-drained and slightly acidic soil in full to part sun, with protection from heavy frosts.

Polygala 'Little Bibi'

Polygalas offer trouble-free performance, fast growth and a vibrant display of purple pea-like flowers for much of the year. 'Little Bibi' is the best of them due to its naturally neat, compact shape to 1m high and wide, and attractive, tight foliage. It also has good salt tolerance, so is ideal for coastal and poolside uses, and is frost-hardy. 'Little Bibi' does well in pots, as a low hedge or in mixed garden beds. Full sun is best but it also takes light shade.

Loropetalum 'Plum Gorgeous'

Burgundy foliage adds great interest to a garden, and when it's teamed with hot-pink flowers, the combination is a true standout. 'Plum Gorgeous' is a dwarf form of the Chinese fringe flower, reaching 1.5m high and wide, with deep plum leaves all year in gently cascading waves. It bears masses of pretty, tasselled flowers in spring and again in autumn. It's also exceptionally low maintenance, tolerates dry conditions, light frosts and grows in full sun to part shade.

Abelia 'Kaleidoscope'

The multi-hued foliage of this metre-high shrub changes with the seasons, boasting lime and yellow variegation in spring, turning gold and green in summer, and orange to red in the cooler months. It even has pretty white flowers from spring to autumn. Abelias are as tough as old boots, needing almost no care. Use 'Kaleidoscope' as an informal hedge, for mass plantings on banks or in a container. Foliage colour is most intense in full sun but it grows easily in part shade.

Rhaphiolepis 'Oriental Pearl'

The neat bun shape of this petite Indian hawthorn wins many hearts, as does the contrast between its suede-textured, rusty-coloured new leaves and crisp, dark-green foliage. In addition, its white spring flowers are lightly fragranced. Use it as a series of compact balls to make a statement, as a low hedge or in pots for a more understated look. Slow growing, it's usually kept about 50cm high but may reach 1m over time. It tolerates salt, heat, frost and wind but needs good drainage. **H&G**

Photographs courtesy of Plant Growers Australia (www.pga.com.au) and egardens (www.egardens.com.au).

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Decanter and water glass set, Shades of Pale. Marble coaster, West Elm. Bowl, Bisonhome. Sack, Uashmama. Tote and flowers, Portobello Rose (throughout).
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

LIVING

EASY DINNERS / DRINKS / POSTCARD

Styling by Michaela Le Compte. Photograph by Nick Banbury.

WEEKNIGHT WINNERS

Add these delicious dishes to your weekly repertoire. Seasonal and simple, you'll be done, dusted and dining in under 45 minutes.

RECIPES **EMMA KNOWLES & LISA FEATHERBY** / STYLING **MICHAELA LE COMPTE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **NICK BANBURY**



Grilled chicken, bacon & poached egg salad

Prep: 20 mins. Cooking: 20 mins. Serves 4.

4 skinless chicken breasts (about 200g each)
2 tbsp olive oil
200g sliced streaky bacon
2 cups loosely packed frisée lettuce
½ cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, torn
¼ cup finely chopped chives, plus extra to serve
4 very fresh free-range eggs
⅓ cup (80ml) olive oil
2 tbsp white wine vinegar

Croûtons

30g butter, melted
3 tsp olive oil
1 baguette, cut into 12 1cm-thick slices

1 / Place chicken on a plate; season, drizzle with 2 tbsp olive oil, turning to coat. Heat a grill pan over medium-high heat, and cook, turning occasionally, until golden and cooked through, about 8mins. Set aside to rest. Wipe pan clean with paper towel.

2 / To make croûtons, combine butter and oil in a bowl; brush onto baguette slices. In same grill pan, toast over medium-high heat until golden, turning once, about 1min per side. Set aside.

3 / In same grill pan, grill bacon for 3mins or until crisp, turning occasionally. Cool slightly, then tear into small pieces and place in a large bowl with croutons, frisée, parsley and chives.

4 / Meanwhile, poach eggs. Bring a saucepan of salted water to a simmer, swirl into a whirlpool and gently break eggs into moving water. Poach until cooked to your liking, about 3mins for soft yolks; drain, keep warm.

5 / Combine ⅓ cup oil and vinegar in a jug, season to taste then drizzle over salad. Toss lightly to combine, then arrange on a platter or divide among serving plates. Serve with sliced chicken and poached eggs.



Lamb skewers with herb & radish tabbouleh

Prep: 30 mins. Cooking: 10 mins. Serves 4.

1kg boneless lamb shoulder, trimmed, cut into 2cm cubes
5 cloves garlic
¼ cup loosely packed fresh oregano leaves
1 tbsp dried oregano
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
⅓ cup (80ml) extra-virgin olive oil

Tabbouleh

¼ cup (55g) coarse cracked wheat (burghul)
1½ cups loosely packed fresh coriander leaves
1½ cups loosely packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 red onion, finely chopped
4 radishes, thinly sliced
100ml extra-virgin olive oil
2 tbsp lemon juice

1 / Place lamb in a non-reactive container. Place garlic, oregano and lemon zest in a mortar and pestle and pound to a paste; stir in lemon juice and oil. Add marinade to lamb, mix well and season to taste. Thread 4-5 cubes of lamb onto metal or soaked bamboo skewers.
2 / Heat a barbecue or grill pan to high heat and grill skewers, turning occasionally, until cooked to your liking (about 8mins for medium-rare). Cover loosely with foil and rest 5mins.
3 / Meanwhile, make tabbouleh. Place cracked wheat in a heatproof bowl. Add 125ml boiling water, cover with plastic wrap and stand for 10mins or until soft. Drain excess water well and stir remaining ingredients through. Season to taste and set aside until needed.
TIP Lamb can be marinated the night before. Refrigerate until needed.

Japanese rice bowl with salmon sashimi

Prep: 15 mins + cooling. Cooking: 15 mins. Serves 4.

2 cups (400g) sushi rice
2½ tbsp (50ml) rice vinegar
1 tsp caster sugar
400g sashimi-grade salmon or ocean trout, diced
1 bunch chives, finely chopped
Seaweed salad*, thinly sliced dried nori, pickled ginger, salmon roe, and light soy sauce, to serve

1 / Rinse rice under cold running water until water runs clear; drain well. Place in a saucepan with 2 cups cold water, cover with a lid and bring to the boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low and cook a further 12-14mins; remove from heat. Combine vinegar and sugar in a bowl, then drizzle over rice, cover and set aside for 5mins. Tip rice onto a tray and spread out to cool slightly.
2 / Spoon rice into bowls, arrange remaining ingredients in piles on top and serve immediately with soy sauce on the side.
*Available from Japanese grocers and select fishmongers. ▶

TOP / Platter, plate and bowl, all Martine Gallery. For similar napkin, try Papaya. **BOTTOM /** Huon pine plate, Hill Street Grocer. For similar chopsticks, try Ginkgo Leaf. For similar marble dish, try Papaya. For similar ceramic plates, try Bisonhome. Pewter bowl, Shades of Pale. For similar soy pot, try Made in Japan. Grey runner, Bed Bath N' Table. **OPPOSITE /** Board, tongs and saucer, all stylist's own. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.







A WELL-STOCKED PANTRY MAKES IMPROVISING EASY AND CUTS DOWN ON FOOD WASTE.

ABOVE / Steamer, Asian grocers. Plates, all Martine Gallery. OPPOSITE / For similar cruet, try Peter's of Kensington. Salad bowl and similar white plates, Mud Australia.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Chinese-style steamed snapper with spring onions, soy & sesame

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 15 mins. Serves 4.

4 crimson or other snapper fillets (about 180g each), bones removed, skin scored
6cm piece ginger, cut into julienne
2 spring onions, thinly sliced, plus extra to serve
2 tbsp Shaoxing wine
2 tbsp light soy sauce
50ml peanut oil
1 bunch chinese broccoli (gai lan), trimmed and halved (separate leaves from stems)
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
2 tsp sesame oil
Thinly sliced long red chilli, coriander leaves and steamed rice, to serve

1 / Place snapper, skin-side down, on a lightly oiled ceramic plate that fits snugly into a large steamer. Scatter ginger and onion on top, drizzle with Shaoxing and soy sauce, cover, then steam for 8mins over a wok of boiling water until fish is cooked through.
2 / Meanwhile, heat 15ml peanut oil in a large frypan or wok over high heat, add gai lan and garlic and 1 tbsp water (if needed); stir-fry for 1min or until gai lan is wilted and bright green.
3 / Heat sesame oil and remaining peanut oil in a small saucepan until smoking, about 2mins. Transfer fish to plates, drizzle juices over, then pour over hot oil, scatter with extra spring onion, chilli and coriander and serve with rice and gai lan.

Tomato tart with fig, mozzarella & basil salad

Prep: 25 mins. Cooking: 20 mins. Serves 5-6.

15 sheets filo pastry, cut square
100g butter, melted
500g sour cream
5 eggs
2 cloves garlic, finely grated
1 tbsp thyme leaves
1 tbsp plain flour
250g assorted tomatoes, larger ones cut into wedges
Handful mint leaves, torn
Handful flat-leaf parsley leaves
Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling

Fig, mozzarella & basil salad
⅓ cup (80ml) extra-virgin olive oil
2 tbsp cabernet merlot or other red-wine vinegar
Pinch caster sugar
6 black figs, trimmed and cut into large chunks
2 balls buffalo mozzarella (about 120g each), torn
1 cup basil leaves, torn
3 golden shallots, finely diced

1 / Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Lay 1 filo sheet on bench, brush with butter, then lay buttered-side down in a 22x22cm loose-based tart tin, allowing 1-2cm overhang. Brush with butter, then top with filo. Repeat with remaining butter and filo, finishing with a layer of pastry.
2 / Place sour cream in a bowl and whisk to soften. Add eggs, garlic, thyme and flour, and whisk to combine, season to taste then pour into pastry-lined tin. Bake until golden and cooked through, about 15-20mins (cover edges loosely with foil if browning too quickly). Remove from oven and stand 5mins.
3 / Place tomatoes, herbs and olive oil in a bowl and mix to combine. Season well, then scatter over tart. Transfer to a platter.
4 / To make salad dressing, whisk olive oil, vinegar and sugar together in a bowl; season to taste. Arrange salad ingredients on a platter and drizzle dressing over. Serve immediately with tart.



GRILLED PRAWNS WITH PINK GRAPEFRUIT SALAD

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 10 mins. Serves 4.
Place **500g peeled raw prawns** in a bowl with **3 cloves garlic, crushed, 2 finely chopped long red chillies, finely grated zest and juice of 1 lime** and **2 tbsp olive oil;** season to taste. Grill prawns on a barbecue or grill pan over medium–high heat, turning occasionally until golden and cooked through, about 6mins. Meanwhile, place **2 thinly sliced pink grapefruit** and **6 thinly sliced fresh shallots** with **1 cup (60g) fried shallots** and **½ cup each (firmly packed) Thai basil, mint and coriander** in a bowl; toss to combine, then arrange on a plate. Whisk **2 tbsp fish sauce, juice of 1 lime** and **1½ tbsp caster sugar** together in a bowl and drizzle over salad. Serve immediately with prawns.

PASTA SALAD WITH TROUT, LEMON & HERBS

Prep: 15 mins. Cooking: 10 mins. Serves 4.
Cook **350g farfalle** in salted boiling water for about 8mins or until al dente. Drain, then refresh under cold water, drain again then transfer to a bowl. Meanwhile, heat **30g butter** in a frypan over medium–high heat. Add **2 golden shallots, diced,** and **1 clove garlic, crushed**; stir for 2mins or until tender. Add **½ cup (125ml) dry white wine**, bring to the boil, then stir in **2 smoked trout fillets, flaked**. Remove from heat and immediately stir through pasta, along with **1 handful chopped dill, 1 handful chopped chives, juice and zest of 1 lemon** and **¼ cup (60ml) extra-virgin olive oil**; toss to combine and season to taste. Serve warm with **a dollop of crème fraîche.** **H&G**



For similar plate, try David Jones. **OPPOSITE /** Large bowl, Country Road. Small bowl, Martine Gallery. Fork, stylist's own. For similar napkin, try Papaya. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



Take the 'less is more' approach. A simple recipe allows the flavours of fresh, seasonal ingredients to shine.

DRINKS

GO NIGHTLY



Turn weeknight meals into an opportunity to savour flavours and conversation over quality, quaffable and affordable wines, writes **Toni Paterson.**

The addition of wine to a weeknight dinner transforms a daily ritual into an occasion. A neatly laid table and glass of a well-matched tipple can elevate the humblest dish. Wine needs to be sipped deliberately and this alone slows down the pace of a meal. It allows you to pause, reflect and converse, and savour flavour combinations.

There are plenty of very good wines out there at fair prices so if you know what to look for, drinking wine regularly need not break the bank.

Sparkling wine keeps very well due to the presence of dissolved carbon dioxide, which gives the wine its bubbles and protects it from oxidation. The 2013 Yellowglen Pinot Noir Chardonnay, $19, is balanced, refreshing and satisfying. Prosecco is a good-value option as it's simple to make and cheaper than 'traditional method' sparkling wines. The NV Innocent Bystander Prosecco, $20, tastes great and is only nine per cent alcohol.

Riesling is undervalued, thus there are bargains to be found. The 2014 Chrismont Riesling, $17, is a steal – classy and refined with intense flavours. Or try the 2015 Angove Long Row Riesling, $10, with a hint of sweetness and juicy fruit flavours.

If you love pinot grigio, sample the bargain 2015 Oxford Landing Pinot Grigio, $9. Also good is the 2014 Smith & Hooper, $19, a fine drop, tasting of pear and gentle spice.

I urge you to revisit semillon-sauvignon blanc blends if you haven't done so recently, especially those from the west. The 2015 Pitchfork Margaret River Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, $17, is sublime with zest and tropical notes. The 2015 Alkoomi Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, $15, is soft and fruity with a hint of sweetness. Or try the 2015 Sandalford Classic Dry White, $20.

For budget chardonnay, look for the 2015 Alkoomi Frankland River, $15, or organic 2015 Angove Wild Olive, $22. And don't miss the popular Logan Apple Tree Flat, $13, with its grapefruity vein and gentle spice.

There's plenty of value to be found in reds. Both the raspberry-flavoured 2014 Angove Long Row Shiraz, $10, and 2013 Logan Apple Tree Flat Shiraz, $13, are serious wines at bargain prices. The 2014 Cross Stitch Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon, $15, is a good option, as is the Jacob's Creek Reserve Shiraz, $18, and 2013 West Cape Howe Hannah's Hill Cabernet Merlot, $20.

Enjoy the sublime 2014 Richard Hamilton Shiraz, $21, which is classier than the price implies, and the modern 2014 St John's Road Blood & Courage Shiraz, $22, with plush red fruits and spice. Pitchfork also does great Shiraz, $17, from 2013.

Quality affordable pinot noir can be difficult to find but Marlborough wines are good value – try 2014 Mount Riley or the varietal 2014 Stoneleigh Wild Valley, $22. **H&G**



TONI'S TOP DROPS

2015 Ad Hoc Wallflower Riesling, $21
A glorious, pure-fruited, dainty wine that changes and evolves in the glass. Utterly delicious.

2015 Angove Nine Vines Grenache Shiraz Rosé, $16
A fabulous modern rosé with a delicate strawberry aroma and long, even, flavoursome palate.

2015 Pitchfork Margaret River Chardonnay, $17
Vibrant, unwooded and made from high-quality fruit. Push away any chardonnay prejudice and try this beautiful and stylish wine.

NV Chrismont La Zona Prosecco, $22
Textbook Prosecco with gently perfumed fruit and a balanced, refreshing palate. Moderate alcohol at 11.5 per cent.

Photograph by Will Horner.



POSTCARD

BRISBANE

The glamorous New Inchcolm Hotel is redefining elegance downtown.

Centrally located and steeped in local history, The New Inchcolm Hotel & Suites has been luxuriously refurbished by designers Robertson Design Studio International. Statement pieces from modern designers including Christopher Guy and Jonathan Adler bring a contemporary edge to the property's glamorous 1920s past. The original silky-oak panelling, french-oak herringbone flooring and soaring ceilings inspired the bespoke library joinery and onyx-clad fireplace in the reception lounge as well as the elegantly tailored suites beyond (above right). The charming cage lift was restored and a new-look Thomson's Reserve Restaurant (right) and Socialites Bar on the ground floor boast seasonal menus showcasing fresh, local, sustainable and organic produce. It's the perfect spot to enjoy a dose of old-world glamour, with every modern convenience (think iPad Mini, Nespresso machine, 24-hour room service and Appelles Black Label amenities) at your fingertips. www.inchcolm.com.au. **H&G**



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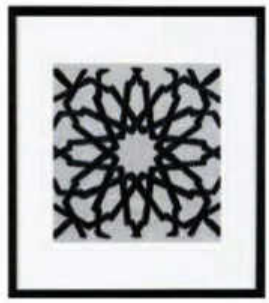
TRAVEL NOTES

Rediscover the laidback cool of Queensland's capital.
Jak + Hill Enjoy all your favourite café classics at this Spring Hill hotspot. 40 Astor Terrace, Spring Hill: www.jakandhill.com.au.
Riverwalk A 10-minute stroll down the hill will bring you to Brisbane city's riverside boardwalk, boasting uninterrupted views of the New Farm cliffs, East Brisbane and the Story Bridge.

STYLE FILE



Jonathan Adler Futura Circles porcelain **vase,** $395; www.cocorepublic.com.au.



Bangay *Garden Motif III* framed **textile artwork** on linen, $878; www.designerboyscollections.com.



Florence Broadhurst Aubrey cotton **cushion** (50x50cm), $100; www.rapee.com.au.



Elton timber **settee** with linen weave upholstery in Steel Grey, $999; www.westelm.com.au.

Produced by Kate Nixon.

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PRODUCED BY **ELIZABETH WILSON**



Photograph by John Paul Urizar.

DESIGN FILE

HIDDEN DEPTHS

Classic detailing and contemporary flair combine beautifully in this dramatic Sydney kitchen.



+ The island bench has open shelving at both ends, facing the dining table. On the galley side, the bench accommodates two fully integrated dishwashers, an under-sink bin, under-counter hot/cold water unit and a bank of drawers.

+ Hidden behind the joinery is a fully integrated fridge/freezer, as well as a spacious pantry configured to maximise storage and avoid the typical 'dead space' created in a corner where two full-depth cupboards meet.



✚ Dark cabinetry is balanced by warm splashes of timber veneer in the island bench shelving, while patinated bronze mesh on upward-opening cabinet doors adds texture.

✚ At 1.1x2.8m, the island bench is luxuriously long. A pedestal-style base minimises its bulk.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Styling by Kayla Gex. Photography by Justin Alexander.

THE NEW *classic*

The vision

Timeless, contemporary and practical: these were the criteria for the owners of this new home when it came to their 5.5x3m kitchen, which is centrally located and connected to the living and dining zones. They envisaged a light-filled and good-looking room where they could cook while chatting with their children or guests, all enabled by a smooth-running, practical layout.

The design solution

To achieve a timeless/contemporary look, interior architect Alexandra Donohoe of Decus Interiors used panelled cabinetry – a traditional form of detailing – combined with marble benchtops, concrete flooring and a bold, dark colour for a decidedly contemporary result.

Ideas at work

The L-shaped layout means the cook can be at work in the kitchen while enjoying interactions with family members or guests settled in the dining and living areas.

A large skylight runs the length of the kitchen providing ample natural light by day, while recessed LED lighting illuminates the skylight shaft by night.

Placing the fridge/freezer and pantry at one end of the space means people can access those amenities without impacting on the cook.

The colour palette is intentionally dramatic, to balance the abundance of natural light entering via the skylight and through glass doors opposite the kitchen. ▶

DECUS INTERIORS, PADDINGTON, NSW; (02) 9363 4004 OR WWW.DECUS.COM.AU.

LUIGI ROSSELLI ARCHITECTS, SURRY HILLS, NSW; (02) 9281 1498 OR LUIGIROSSELLI.COM.

Appliances

✚ *Miele oven*
✚ *Miele cooktop*
✚ *Liebherr refrigerator*



'The palette was intentionally dramatic to balance the abundance of natural light.'

Alexandra Donohue, Decus Interiors

THE DETAILS

Total cost for this kitchen: $105,000 (including appliances).
Cabinetry is two-pack polyurethane matched to Porter's Paints Polo with a matt finish. The panelling has a traditional Shaker-style profile. Total cost of joinery: $65,000.
Woven wire mesh in medium gauge, electroplated to achieve an aged-bronze finish, POA, by Locker Group.
Benchtop and splashback in honed Arabescato Corchia marble, about $10,000 (including installation), FGA Granite & Marble.
Flooring is polished concrete featuring exposed aggregate.
Tekna Portreath pendant light (over island bench), $5000, Tigger Hall Design.
Paris Au Mois d'Aout fabric pendant light shades (above dining table), from $177/each, Hub Furniture Lighting Living.
Franke Verona TA7311 pull-out mixer, $739, Winning Appliances.
Classicon Pallas dining table in Ocean Blue, $7035, and ***Gervasoni Gray 23 chairs,*** $995/each, Anibou.

Get the LOOK



FROM TOP Kite Oval Cross paper **light shade** in Grey/White/Orange, $75, Ruby Star Traders. Southampton six-light metal **pendant light** in Antique Black, $795, Beacon Lighting. Hexagonal marble **cheese board,** $203 (top) and **cutting board,** $161, iDecorate. Tulip timber **vessels** in Blue, $110/set of two, Satara. Modern Danish Medium Angle Rectangle timber **dining table,** $890, Ghify.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Compiled by Kayla Gex. Prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.


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✚ Timber outlines around the overhead cupboards and fridge pick up the clean lines and geometric shapes of the kitchen's suspended shelving.

✚ A raised block conceals the busiest work area of the kitchen and hides any potential mess. At the front, two 1200x300mm cupboards house the couple's wine collection.

✚ Bespoke joinery, natural timbers and a supreme attention to detail define this new kitchen.

DESIGN FILE

LINEAR LOGIC

Strong lines set up an artful blend of utility and flair in this Melbourne kitchen.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Tom Blachford.



✚ Inspired by 1970s-style joinery, the suspended blackbutt shelving acts as a visual divide between the kitchen and living area, and as a display surface for plants and objects.

NATURAL assets

The vision

When the owners bought this 1970s-era Melbourne home, the kitchen was in near-original condition. Located at the centre of the house, it was dark and enclosed. While they loved the vintage aesthetic of the home, they were keen to reconfigure the interiors to create an open-plan living space with a welcoming, light-filled kitchen. They also wanted to link the kitchen to the garden, where they do a lot of their entertaining.

The design solution

Interior designer Mardi Doherty removed several internal walls to create a combined kitchen/dining/living space. Using a restrained palette of timber and crisp white with black accents, she designed the 5.5x3.7m kitchen to be "in keeping with the modest nature of the late-'70s architecture", she says. Suspended shelving divides the kitchen from the dining/living area while a bifold window with a stone sill acts as a servery, delivering the all-important connection to the garden.

Ideas at work

"The home is simple in its design and lacks ornamentation, so we aimed to bring detail to the interiors, in order to create a level of interest that enhances the simple architecture," says Mardi.

A window servery was created by converting an existing window into a floor-to ceiling window that incorporates a bifold at the top. This allows food and drink to be passed through to the outdoor entertaining area. "It also brings beautiful morning light into the kitchen area and provides a lovely link to the garden."

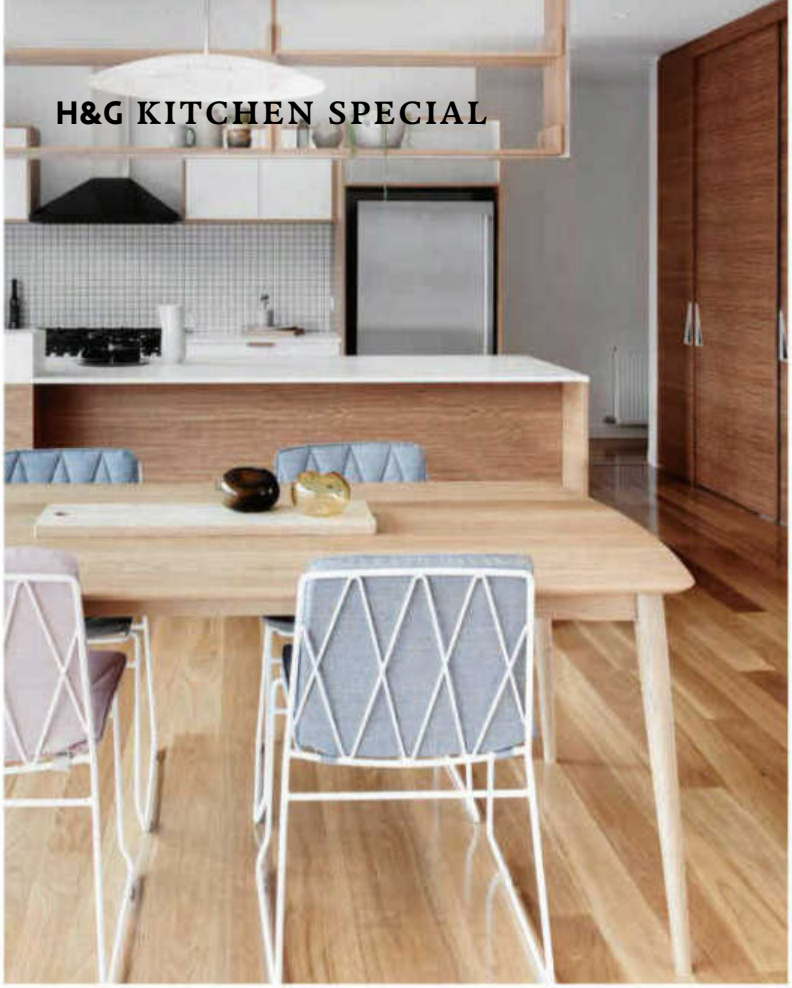
Mardi 'framed' the white overhead cupboards on the back wall in solid blackbutt. "This treatment helps to define the cupboards and to draw your eye beyond the hanging shelving as you look into the room," she says.

The finishes in the room are either matt or low-gloss. "This was important," says Mardi, "because the clients wanted a calm, non-reflective kitchen with a natural feel." ▶

DOHERTY DESIGN STUDIO, HAWTHORN, VICTORIA; (03) 9815 2737 OR WWW.DOHERTYDESIGNSTUDIO.COM.AU.

Appliances

- ***Falcon freestanding stove with gas cooktop and electric oven***
- ***Electrolux 510L bottom-mount fridge/freezer***
- ***Rangehood: Qasair 900HL-1 Heritage range***



'The palette was driven by the owner's love of natural materials, and by respect for the home's past.' Mardi Doherty

THE DETAILS

Total cost for this kitchen: about $65,000 (including appliances).
The front fascia of the timber bench is in quarter-cut blackbutt veneer, $55/m², Slice Veneers.
White laminate cabinetry in Parchment, from $88/m², Laminex, framed in solid backbutt timber.
The benchtop surface is Grain quartz in Super White with matt finish, about $300/m², Stone Italiana.
The splashback surface is Inax Madoka-R ceramic tiles, $140/m², Artedomus.
Select-grade tallowwood floorboards (130mm wide x 19mm thick), $120/m², Tait Timber & Hardware.
Custom-made window in solid hardwood.
Blockout roller blind by The Interior Solutions Group.
Armando Vicario Luz mixer tap, $575, Abbey Fireplaces.
Wall of storage sliding doors is in quarter-cut blackbutt veneer.
Triangular cut-out handles on cupboard doors are lined with powder-coated aluminium in Dulux Shoji White.
Feelgood Designs Dining Table 167, from $1590, Curious Grace.
Seb SE56U chairs, $779/each, Jardan.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Get the LOOK



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT Nel Lusso Woven ceramic **bowl,** $30, Zimba; 1800 147 538 or www.zimba.com.au. Sea tangle linen **throw** in Silver Birch, $149, Kate & Kate; www.kateandkate.com.au. Leif **body cleanser** in Wild Rosella & Alpine Pepper, $35/500ml, The Depot & Co; www.thedepotandco.com.au. Orleans wire and metal **pendant light,** $50, Brilliant Lighting; (03) 9765 2555 or www.brilliantlighting.com.au. Sipa Tommy European-ash **stool** in Black, $580, Obodo; (02) 8399 1416 or www.obodo.com.au. Fold plywood **tray,** $50, Country Road; 1800 801 911 or www.countryroad.com.au. Mineral earthernware **planter** in Cream Speck, $27, Have Your Met Miss Jones; (02) 9310 7377 or www.jonesandco.com.au. HK 750ml stainless-steel **pitcher,** $345, Georg Jensen; 1800 536 736 or www.georgjensen.com.

Compiled by Christina Gee. All prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.



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DESIGN FILE

BEAUTY TREATMENT

Fine art and functionality are organically linked in a Sydney kitchen, with fab views on the side.



✚ The wall space above the dining table was left clear in order to hang the Jo Bertini painting. White plates and bowls, Papaya. Flowers, Mandalay Flowers.

✚ Hand-glazed Moroccan tiles bring texture and discreet patterning tothe splashback, with green vases from Marmoset Found (right) for crisp contrast.

✚ 15mm Calacatta marble benchtops add a fresh, clean-lined edge to the woodwork.

✚ The table is big enough for casual, intimate weeknight family meals but can be extended at both ends to entertain a larger group.

✚ For the joinery, oak veneer was cut into 200mm-wide panels that resemble tongue-and-groove timber panelling. Justine chose this treatment to "add visual interest and texture, rather than having flat doors".

ARTISTIC *licence*



✚ A rangehood is concealed behind a box made of oak veneer, which has been painted the same shade as the wall, Dulux Surfmist.

✚ Behind the wall of oak panelling is a generous walk-in pantry.

Photography by Nicholas Watt. Flowers from Mandalay Flowers.

The vision

Blessed with harbour views, the owners of this Sydney home enlisted interior designer Justine Hugh-Jones to create a beautiful and practical kitchen that would play a pivotal role in their open-plan living space. Their brief included a request for an island bench with bar-height seating, a separate dining area and a walk-in pantry. As keen home cooks they required ample room for food preparation, a capacious oven and refrigeration.

The design solution

Justine oriented the 7x5m space to maximise views for all the family, whether they're preparing food or dining. The large (1.3x2.7m) island bench has been kept sink-free to create generous prepping and socialising space. Hidden cleverly behind the joinery at the end of the bar/bench is a walk-in pantry with large fridge, freestanding and wall ovens, and an in-wall television. The L-shaped banquette seating, located along a wall of windows, is perfect for casual dining with fabulous views.

Ideas at work

The colour palette is light and fresh, with a focus on timber tones, reflecting the natural elements on view from the windows: water and angophora trees.

To ensure the kitchen blends with the adjoining living area, Justine has designed the kitchen cabinetry as pieces of attractive furniture. The hand-stained oak joinery concealing the pantry wraps around to form a shared wall with the living area.

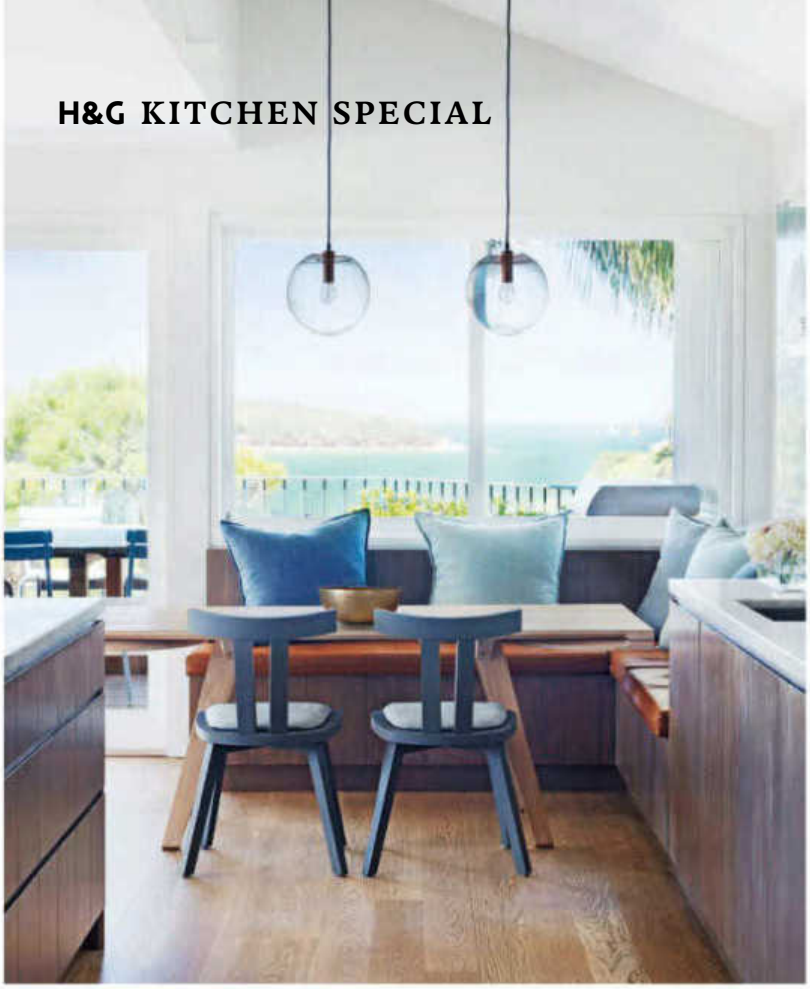
With lines blurred between living and kitchen spaces, Justine made sure there were no eye-level cupboards or exhaust fans on view. Instead, she installed long shelves to display everyday dinnerware and other beautiful, useful household objects.

The inclusion of artworks and wall-mounted sculptures within the kitchen zone elevates the tone and functionality of the space to another level, adding colour, form and texture.

JUSTINE HUGH-JONES DESIGN, SYDNEY, NSW; 0410 687 786 OR WWW.JUSTINE HUGH-JONES.COM.

Appliances

- ✚ *Ilve Quadra P90 freestanding stove*
- ✚ *Qasair rangehood*
- ✚ *Liebherr refrigerator*
- ✚ *Miele combo steam oven*



'The panoramic views over the harbour from the dining area and kitchen are the best in the house.' *Justine Hugh-Jones*

THE DETAILS

Cabinetry is American-oak veneer, hand-stained on-site in a grey shade.
The benchtop is Elba marble, a warm white stone with subtle grey veining.
The splashback features glazed brick Moroccan tiles, $320/m², Onsite.
Walls are painted Dulux Surfmist (quarter strength), $39/L.
American-oak floorboards were hand-stained on-site in a light grey colour.
Perrin & Rowe Phoenician mixer with spray rinse in satin brass, $1463, The English Tapware Company.
Hay About A Stool stools with leather upholstery, $980/each, Cult.
The banquette seat cushion was designed by Justine and made up in tan leather.
Scatter cushions were designed by Justine and made in Belgian linen.
De La Espada Studioilse 452 Together extendable table, from $6105, Anibou.
Gervasoni Gray 23 chairs in Air Force Blue, $995/each, Anibou.
Classicon Selene copper-plated pendant lights, from $1540/each, Anibou.
Artwork by Jo Bertini, Olsen Irwin.

Get the LOOK



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT Fizi Ball glass and brass **pendant light,** $1395, Articolo Lighting; 0412 108 809 or www.articololighting.com. *Will Never Be Old* **oil painting** on canvas (30x30cm) by Ali Wood, $590, Saint Cloche; 0434 274 251 or www.saintcloche.com. Boomerang oak and leather **bar stool** in Orange, $572, Satara; (03) 9587 4469 or www.satara.com.au. Saw and Grain oak **dining table,** $2800, Handkrafted; 0412 113 371 or www.handkrafted.com. A51.07.V9.ML **mixer tap** in Brushed Platinum, $656, Astra Walker; (02) 8838 5100 or www.astrawalker.com.au. Cotton **cushion** in Blue, $40, Lavender Hill Interiors; (02) 8313 9085 or www.lavenderhillinteriors.com.au. Oxford glass **vase,** $90, Amalfi; (03) 9474 1300 or www.amalfihomewares.com.au. Fern ceramic **vase,** $10, Emporium; (03) 9474 1300 or www.emporiumhome.com.au. Tom Dixon Bash small brass **vessel,** $380, Stem; (02) 9810 5222 or www.stemonline.com.au. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Compiled by Kayla Gex. Prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.



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Design: Prospero Rasulo for Gessi

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DESIGN FILE

MOVEABLE FEAT

A flexible attitude has transformed this spatially challenged kitchen in a Sydney heritage home.



✚ This hardworking wall of storage makes the most of every centimetre, housing a pantry, microwave, ironing board and admin nook. Routed white storage units, framed in black laminate with ply edging, are designed to look like furniture rather than kitchen joinery. "The framing makes a feature of this unit and allows the joinery to 'float' within the space," says Emma. Blue bowl from Pottery Barn and yellow plate from Williams-Sonoma.

✚ The island is made from black structural formply, a cost-effective material, topped by a piece of Carrara marble recycled from an old table. The size of the island was dictated by the 1.5x.75m marble slab. Lockable castors from Bunnings make this island unit infinitely versatile.

RICH character



✚ With a low ceiling, lighting solutions had to be simple and minimal. Beama mini downlights from Masson For Light are unobtrusive.

✚ Subway tiles with dark grout create the impression of a Victorian-era basement cook's kitchen, an apt reference for this 19th-century home. White jugs from Alfresco Emporium.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Styling by Kayla Gex. Photography by John Paul Urizar. Flowers from Mandalay Flowers.

The vision

Architect Suzanne Green (pictured) loves the character of her 1880s Sydney terrace, but had struggled with the lack of storage. So, when she redesigned her kitchen, storage space was high on her agenda, along with maximising bench space and light. She wanted to build flexibility into the layout to allow for an easier flow through the ground floor space, which opens onto a rear courtyard.

Design solution

Suzanne and her business partner at Arque, Emma Rees-Raaijmakers, devised a wide galley layout for the 3.7x4m space. They located all the appliances and sink on one wall, with a bank of storage opposite. They then designed an island bench on castors to maximise workspace, storage and flexibility.

Ideas at work

The 1.5m-long custom island bench, is 75cm deep. It was conceived as an attractive piece of furniture that can be moved around as required. For dinner parties, it can be wheeled into the adjacent dining area to provide extra serving space.

To boost light levels, Suzanne and Emma chose Dulux Vivid White for the walls.

"We loved the idea of using floor tiles that referenced the architectural style of the Victorian home," says Emma. "These encaustic tiles are the perfect contemporary take on a traditional tessellated tile."

Subway tiles on the wall are another nostalgic reference. "We liked the idea of creating the feeling of a traditional Victorian basement cook's kitchen," says Suzanne. "The subway tiles and dark grout felt like the perfect fit for that look."

A simple palette of materials and minimalist light fittings help disguise the low ceiling height of this space.

ARQUE, SURRY HILLS, NSW; (02) 9045 1772 OR WWW.ARQUE.COM.AU.

Appliances

- ***Smeg Classic SFA304X stainless-steel 60cm wall oven***
- ***Smeg Classic CIR66XS3 60cm cooktop***
- ***Bosch fully integrated dishwasher***
- ***Jenn-Air refrigerator***



✚ Recessed LED strip lighting has been installed in the joinery above the bench. "When we're dining, we turn the main lights off and this provides good mood lighting," says Suzanne. For under-bench lighting such as this, she recommends using LED bulbs with a colour temperature measure of 2700–3000K for a warm glow. Toaster and blender, Smeg.

✚ Sunny concrete floor tiles bring warmth and colour to the room. "They add a level of decorative detail that's appropriate for a space connected to a dining area," says Emma.

'The key to the success of this kitchen was all in the space planning, joinery design and material selection.'

Emma Rees-Raaijmakers, Arque



✚ Smart storage can play many roles. Open shelving on the island bench (left) allows for an attractive display of objects, while a narrow cabinet (above) makes a great drinks area.



THE DETAILS

Total cost for this kitchen: about $45,000 (including appliances).
The white cabinetry is two-pack polyurethane in Dulux Vivid White. Total cost for white joinery: $15,000.
Custom mobile island bench in structural plywood with recycled-marble surface and castors, $900.
Custom stainless-steel benchtop with cast-in sink, about $5000 (including installation).
Liverpool 75x150mm white ceramic subway wall tiles, about $39/m², Tile Mega Mart.
Autumn 200x200mm encaustic floor tiles, $129/m², Teranova.
Beama Mini MR16 downlights, about $90/each, Masson For Light.
LEDlux 80mm downlights in Black, $90/each, Beacon Lighting.
Black pull handles (on tall cupboards), $4/each, Bunnings.
Sussex Scala square spout mixer tap, $443, Reece.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.





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DESIGN FILE

ECO BOOST

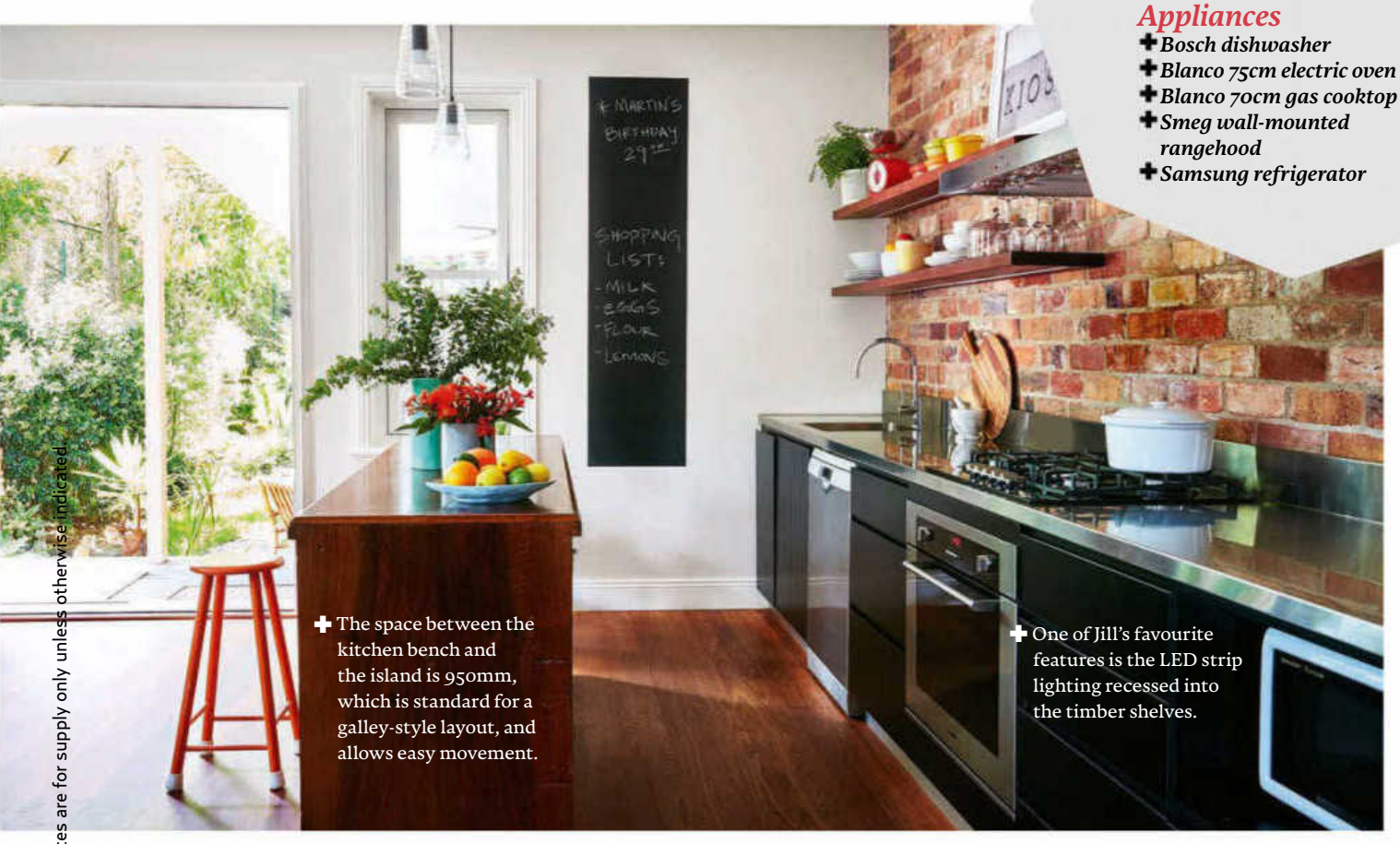
GREEN credentials

These hands-on renovators re-used, recycled and repurposed materials to brilliant effect in their Sydney kitchen.



✚ Open shelving allows Jill to display quirky finds such as retro picnicware and vintage Tupperware.

✚ The idea to use an old shop counter as the island bench was inspired by local cafe culture. Finding this prized piece at auction, homeowners Jill and Martin stripped and re-varnished it themselves. "It has plenty of dints and marks on it, but that adds to its character and allows us to feel less precious about it."



✚ The space between the kitchen bench and the island is 950mm, which is standard for a galley-style layout, and allows easy movement.

✚ One of Jill's favourite features is the LED strip lighting recessed into the timber shelves.

Appliances

- ✚ *Bosch dishwasher*
- ✚ *Blanco 75cm electric oven*
- ✚ *Blanco 70cm gas cooktop*
- ✚ *Smeg wall-mounted rangehood*
- ✚ *Samsung refrigerator*

'Cafes were great inspiration. They typically share a theme of concrete, stainless steel, recycled timbers and other repurposed materials.' *Jill Thomas*

The vision

Hands-on renovator Jill Thomas wanted a kitchen that was "fun, full of texture, warmth and colour, with a focus on recycled products". After years of planning and saving, Jill and her husband Martin said goodbye to an old skillion-roofed section of small rooms at the rear of their Sydney Federation semi, and hello to a lovely, large open-plan living/dining/kitchen space leading onto a deck.

The design solution

Jill designed the kitchen with help from joiner Tharith Kang of TK Design. By making her own 3D models, she arrived at a simple and thoughtful layout, 6x2.1m, that suits the needs of her family, and relates easily to the living areas and the new deck. The 'hero' piece of the space is a raw brick wall, constructed using recycled bricks from the demolition. "Second-hand goods have character. They have a story to tell," says Jill.

Ideas at work

Re-use and recycle. "It gives me pleasure to see bricks and timbers re-used and furniture repurposed," says Jill. "Hopefully our children will learn from these simple decisions and embrace recycling in their choices in the future."

Jill opted for open shelving along the wall for several reasons. "Easy accessibility, no cupboard doors to clean, it's more affordable and it's visually interesting," she says. "And dust is minimised if you dedicate the shelves to frequently used items."

Timber in a kitchen does require extra care and mopping up spills promptly, says Jill, but it's warm underfoot – visually, too.

THE DETAILS

Total cost for this kitchen: about $16,000 (including appliances).

The dark cabinetry is laminate in Black, from $88/m², Laminex.

Cabinetry, $7500, by TK Design.

Stainless-steel benchtop, $1500.

Timber shelving in spotted gum, $127/m, Ironwood.

The island bench unit is a recycled shop counter, $350, Raffan, Kelaher & Thomas.

The brick wall is made of recycled bricks from the demolition, cleaned and sealed by Jill and Martin.

Pressed-glass pendant lights, $95/each, Fat Shack Vintage. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Scott Hawkins. Framed photograph by Rory O'Brien. Prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.



Bright ideas
Metal light fittings – in this case, Brilliant Maxwell pendant lights in White, $73/each – are integral to the industrial look.

Tile tales
Subway tiles have been laid with black grout. "They're easy to clean, smart to look at and key to the industrial aesthetic," says Leanne.

End results
The work surface is the Kaboodle Cottagini benchtop, $157/m. This laminate surface has been given a high-end look by incorporating mitred 'waterfall' ends.

Material effects
Gloss-finish Kaboodle Premium Thermoformed vinyl doors in Charcola (above) are mixed with matt, timber-look Spiced Oak (right). Underneath, the Kaboodle Aluminium Laminate kickboard has the luxurious look of metal.

Photograph courtesy of Bunnings. Prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.

A LOOK WE LOVE

CAFE CULTURE

This semi-industrial kitchen proves that directional looks and affordability need not be mutually exclusive.

TEXT **ELIZABETH WILSON**



Chalk it up
The blackboard is made from raw MDF and chalkboard paint. "It's a very easy DIY project," says Leanne. "A chalkboard is great for shopping lists or messages and it adds another texture to the kitchen."

Selected highlights
The black glass splashback (Highgrove Glass 6mm Ironstone, $357/m^2) highlights the warm texture of timber laminate used on the cabinets above.

Concrete reasons
Leanne chose large-format (600x300mm) semi-polished porcelain floor tiles in Sandstone Grey, $43/five, from Johnson Tiles. "We laid them closely, with a 1mm grout line, to give the look of polished concrete."

Appliances
- *Everdure 60cm stainless-steel freestanding dishwasher*
- *Everdure 60cm 4-burner gas cooktop with wok ring*
- *Everdure 60cm electric Bellini 60cm automatic slideout canopy rangehood*
- *Bellini microwave*
- *Fisher & Paykel french-door fridge*

CREATIVE SMARTS

Industrial strength

The vision
"We were aiming for a semi-industrial, cafe-style look," says Bunnings kitchen consultant Leanne Watson, who was enlisted to design this room on a strict budget. The 3.3x3.4m kitchen needed to relate to an adjoining dining space in this family home.

The design solution
In response to the brief, Leanne assembled a materials palette that includes stainless steel, ceramic, laminates and glass, in a combination of matt and gloss finishes. "There are textured and smooth finishes, to create a dynamic look and feel," she says. Layout-wise, Leanne created a U-shaped room with a long bench that acts as a servery to the dining room and allows cook and guests to interact. All materials were sourced from the Kaboodle Kitchens range and other lines from Bunnings. The total cost, including appliances and flooring, is about $12,000.

Leanne's space-saving tips
- Use large drawers to store appliances. It helps to keep benchtops free of clutter.
- This sink bench is 900mm deep (regular size is 600mm) to maximise available space.
- Building in the microwave under the bench leaves more room for food prep.
- Pull-out shelving provides access to narrow cupboards.
- Good lighting can make a space look larger.

Bunnings; (03) 8831 9777 or www.bunnings.com.au.

kitchen news





TAKE IT FROM THE TAP

Billi has tapped into the trend for bespoke kitchens with its Aqua Genius line of customised taps. First, take your pick of colours and finishes, from bright matt hues to weathered metallics, then select the type of water you want the tap to deliver: chilled, boiled, still or sparkling. Priced from $3899, they're available from Winning Appliances. www.winningappliances.com.au.

FREEDOM KITCHENS REPORTS A BIG DEMAND FOR THE SEMI-INDUSTRIAL AESTHETIC. "IT'S A MORE REFINED APPROACH TO THE WAREHOUSE LOOK," SAYS KITCHEN DESIGNER FELICITY PAGE. "PAINTED BRICK, TIMBER GRAIN, STAINLESS STEEL AND CONCRETE LOOK STILL FIGURE, BUT IT'S LESS MINIMALIST." FREEDOMKITCHENS.COM.AU.



POP-UP SHOPPING

Style aficionados will swoon over Sunbeam's new toasters and kettles, $199 each, produced in collaboration with designer Marc Newson. For more, go to www.sunbeam.com.au. To keep all your stainless-steel objects gleaming, reach for Town Talk's stainless-steel polish kit, $20, available from kitchen and gift stores. www.vgminternational.com.au.



SLIDE & GLIDE

Clever storage is the holy grail of kitchen design, so we're excited by Blum's Space Tower. Available in customised widths, heights and depths, this pantry system makes full use of every available millimetre. Fully extendable sliding shelves feature the light, smooth motion that Blum is famous for. 1800 179 186 or www.blum.com.





Chilly charmer
Fans of Smeg's retro FAB fridge will be thrilled to know it's available in miniature. This cute bar fridge, $1990, is 715mm high, has a 42L capacity and is available in Cherry Red (as shown), Panna or Jet Black. www.smeg.com.au.



SET IN STONE

Featuring dark veins on an opaque white background, Statuario Nuvo is the latest marble-inspired design from Caesarstone. At $1200m² (including installation), it captures the essence of real stone with the benefits of a quartz surface: it's non-porous, doesn't require sealing and is highly stain-resistant. 1300 119 119 or www.caesarstone.com.au.

The new Kenwood MultiOne, from $449, is a stand mixer and a food processor in one, served up at an affordable price. It comes with beaters, a whisk and dough hook to cover all your baking needs, plus a range of slicing and dicing attachments. www.kenwoodworld.com.

MIELE'S DA 2906 CEILING EXTRACTOR $5799, BANISHES COOKING VAPOURS WITHOUT COMPROMISING SIGHT LINES. WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY ALLOWS IT TO WORK INTUITIVELY WITH SELECTED MIELE INDUCTION COOKTOPS. WWW.MIELE.COM.AU.



Iron will
Designed by a foodie engineer, this AusFonte 24cm cast-iron sauteuse pan, $130, is made in Australia by Mark J Henry at his Solidteknics artisan studio. It's non-stick, corrosion-resistant and built to last. Available from Koskela; www.koskela.com.au.



A grain of truth
Timber grains remain a favoured ingredient in kitchen design, and Laminex has responded with new, highly realistic options in its Finished Natural Timber Veneers range, priced from $171/m². From top: American oak (available in crown cut or quarter cut versions), American Walnut and Smoked Oak. www.laminex.com.au. ▶



Produced by Elizabeth Wilson. Prices are for supply only unless otherwise indicated.



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OVENS



SIEMENS CM633GBS1B 60CM COMPACT OVEN, $2599
This compact model is an ideal choice for smaller kitchens, not least because it incorporates a microwave function. Its VarioSpeed setting can reduce cooking times by as much as 50 per cent.
Winning Appliances; (02) 8767 2301 or www.winningappliances.com.au.



OK999ELDPX 60CM PYROLYTIC OVEN, $2699
Featuring up to four cooking zones, this extra-large oven is a great option for a big family or keen entertainer. Automatic programs, a rotisserie function and shelves on telescopic rails seal the deal.
Ariston; 1300 762 219 or www.aristonbrand.com.



SFA4395MCX CLASSIC COMPACT 60CM SPEED OVEN, $2990
High-visibility black glass paired with fingerprint-proof stainless steel makes this oven a great-looking addition to any layout. Special features include 18 cooking functions and 1000W microwave capability.
Smeg; (02) 8667 4888 or www.smeg.com.au.



BP9314001M 60CM PYROLYTIC OVEN, $3599
This self-cleaning oven boasts an extra-large (74L) capacity. A maintenance-free catalyst oxidises grease and fumes, so that the air in your kitchen stays clean and free of unpleasant odours.
AEG; 1300 363 664 or www.aegaustralia.com.au.

FRIDGES



SJXP580G 581L GLASS DOOR TOP-MOUNT FRIDGE/FREEZER, 3.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1899
A glass exterior sets this fridge apart: Sharp claims it's easier to clean and harder to scratch than stainless steel. This model has an express freezing function and a high-tech inverter for lower power consumption.
Sharp; 1300 135 530 or www.sharp.net.au.



FAB28 256L (NET CAPACITY) FRIDGE/FREEZER IN SILVER, 2-STAR ENERGY RATING, $4490
A retro classic, this Fab design makes a strikingly handsome fixture in today's open-plan kitchen/living spaces. Crystal-glass shelves elevate the interior, which also includes a five-bottle chromed wine rack.
Smeg.



CHEF COLLECTION FRENCH-DOOR 751L FRIDGE/FREEZER, 2.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $7999
The Triple Cooling system in this fridge/freezer gives each compartment a separate air flow to help ensure optimum temperatures are applied to produce. There's also a built-in chef's tray for marinating meats.
Samsung; 1300 362 603 or www.samsung.com.au.



PRO SERIES RF2826S 372L FRIDGE/FREEZER, 3-STAR ENERGY RATING, $13,999
This fully integrated model features a freezer with electronic ice-maker and a convertible fridge drawer that can be set for wine or fresh-food cooling.
Asko; 1300 002 756 or www.asko.com.au.

Compiled by Sarah Pickette.

DISHWASHERS



DW60CKX1 60CM FREESTANDING DISHWASHER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, 5.5-STAR WELS RATING, $1199
Able to handle 14 place settings, with eight wash programmes and an energy-saving delayed-start function. It's quiet, too, emitting just 44 decibels (the equivalent of someone speaking softly).
Fisher & Paykel; 1300 650 590 or www.fisherpaykel.com.au.



G 4920 SCI CLST 60CM INTEGRATED DISHWASHER, 3.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, 5-STAR WELS RATING, $1599
Sensor technology delivers an efficient and thorough wash in this new model. A cutlery tray, ergonomic baskets and a cycle countdown indicator makes it supremely user-friendly.
Miele; 1300 464 353 or www.miele.com.au.



IVSIX6 60CM SEMI-INTEGRATED DISHWASHER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, 5-STAR WELS RATING, $1999
Sleek and modern, Ilve's semi-integrated model features eight wash programs, including a setting for soaking dishes you'll wash later. It will comfortably accommodate 15-place settings.
Ilve; 1300 694 583 or ilve.com.au.



D5894 SS XXL 60CM BUILT-IN DISHWASHER, 3.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, 4.5-STAR WELS RATING, $2899
Featuring a Turbo Drying Express function, this model accommodates 15 place settings and offers great flexibility thanks to adjustable temperatures and height-adjustable baskets.
Asko; 1300 002 756 or www.asko.com.au.

KITCHEN MIXERS



BLIX FLEXIBLE HOSE ROUND GOOSENECK MIXER, 5-STAR WELS RATING, $360
This design-forward mixer features a detachable hose and 360-degree swivel spout for extended reach and flexibility.
Phoenix Tapware; (03) 9780 4200 or www.phoenixtapware.com.au.



SOUTHCAPE TAYA MIXER WITH PULL-OUT SPRAY, 5-STAR WELS RATING, $545
A pull-out hose is neatly contained within the sleek lines of this Italian-made mixer. It's also available in a gooseneck style if you prefer a taller option.
Domayne; www.domayneonline.com.au.



TEKNOBILI ACQUERELLI PULL-OUT MIXER, 5-STAR WELS RATING, $637
Teknobili continues to come out with smart tapware designs like this high-curved gooseneck mixer. It delivers a useful spray function via an industrial-styled silicone hose.
Reece; 1800 032 566 or www.reece.com.au.



METROPOLIS A76.08.V3 MIXER, 5-STAR WELS RATING, $748
If you're after a classic sink mixer, look no further than the geometric glamour of the Metropolis. It has a swivel base and is available in a broad range of finishes.
Astra Walker; (02) 8838 5100 or www.astrawalker.com.au. ▶

9 BY DESIGN

KITCHEN STOOLS



1 / Seb powder-coated steel **stool** with felt seat pad, $923, Jardan; (03) 9548 8866 or www.jardan.com.au. 2 / Rioja oak **stool,** $295, Huset; (03) 8609 1443 or www.huset.com.au. 3 / E15 ST10 Jean oak-veneered plywood **stool** in Signal Light Blue, $1180, Living Edge; 1300 132 154 or www.livingedge.com.au. 4 / Gloster Curve powder-coated wrought-iron and teak **stool,** $1034, Cosh Living; (03) 9281 1999 or www.coshliving.com.au. 5 / Volfgang chrome-plated steel **stool** with cotton-mix seat, $125, Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea.com.au. 6 / Hardwood **stool** with marble top, $299, Harpers Project; www.harpersproject.com. 7 / Kitch powder-coated steel **stool** with polyurethane seat, $69, Domayne; www.domayne online.com.au. 8 / Kristalia Sharky timber **stool** with polyurethane seat, $1295, Fanuli; (02) 9908 2660 or www.fanuli.com.au. 9 / Rory Unite FBS506 Pylon French oak **stool** with mahogany seat and powder-coated steel footrest, $660, Satara; (03) 9587 4469 or www.satara.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Georgia Madden.



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Use# 42
Use# 23
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ask an expert



How do you downplay the role of a television in a room? Here, decorating expert **Rose-Marie Hillier** shares her tips. Plus, her favourite home office chairs.



WRITE IN

Send your question, with your name and address, to Rose-Marie via H&G Advice, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028, or email h&g@bauer-media.com.au.

Q Our newly renovated living room looks great, but I'm at a loss as to how to diminish the presence of the television. How can I make it appear less obvious? Are there any tricks?

Michelle, via email

A Mmm, I'm with you: TVs are so big these days, they command attention even when they're switched off. But you're in luck – there *are* strategies that can help reduce their impact in a room.

If your TV sits on a stand, try to angle it away from the main traffic area; use the screen to define a specific viewing-only spot within the room. Designate some seating simply for viewing and position other seating away from this area so you can relax and have a conversation or a cocktail without being forced to stare at the box. Alternatively, if your screen is wall-mounted, treat it as an artwork; marry the style and shape with framed artworks of a brighter, bolder nature so that they take centrestage and cause the TV to visually disappear on the wall.

Another trick is to hide the screen behind a sliding panel that is incorporated into built-in full-height storage. Pull it across to hide the television, then, when you want to watch it, simply slide the panel back to reveal the screen. Pop-up or drop-down screens or projection units are other discreet avenues to explore. Enlist the help of a friendly carpenter. ▶



Photograph by James Geer/bauersyndication.com.au.

FAST FIND

OFFICE CHAIRS

A desk chair should guarantee posture support and comfort, always. Look for maximum adjustability to save your back, and breathable fabrics to keep you cool. Here are my top buys:



Hummingbird Cogra Exec Medium-Back Chair (1)
With a strong black-mesh backrest, this futuristic chair will offer the support you need to work comfortably for up to five hours. Complete with a fabric seat, chrome base, and adjustable armrests and chair height, $135; www.officeworks.com.au.



Porro Conch by Decoma Design (2)
This is a new style of office chair featuring a removable fabric, leather or eco-leather body, sitting on a rotating metal base (there's also the option of a fixed frame). The design is characterised by a central opening, from $1610; www.spacefurniture.com.au.



Hay About A Chair (3)
One in a sleek series, this has unlimited potential. There are colour, upholstery and frame options, and some models are height-adjustable with semi-automatic gas lift, from $810; www.cultdesign.com.au.

Nilserik Standing Support (4)
Let's face it: some of us find it easier to use a computer while standing. If you're looking for a healthier alternative to a regular chair, you'll love this fabric-covered 'seat on a stand', with a fixed seat cover that can be cleaned with upholstery shampoo, $50; www.ikea.com.au.



Akaba Arin (5)
This award-winning chair (below left) is suitable as a computer or meeting chair, thanks to its 'synchro' mechanism, tension regulation, gas lift, and adjustable seat and armrest depth. Available in fabric or soft leather, both options have adjustable lumbar support, $750; www.stylecraft.com.au.



Notable mentions go to...
Eames Aluminium Group Management Chair in Black Leather with No Arms This sustainable LivingOn chair is fully adjustable with pneumatic lift, has a 12-year warranty and comes in three colourways, $2665; www.livingedge.com.au. ***Pago Designs Blast High-Back Chair Zest*** This ergonomic-design chair doesn't compromise on comfort. The high-density foam seat can support up to 140kg, and there's also back- and seat-tilt mechanisms, $419; www.officeworks.com.au. ***Stressless Magic Office*** This chair has adjustable lumbar and neck support, as well as a system that automatically adjusts the chair to the most comfortable position using your body weight – no levers. Available in fabric or leather, from $3007; www.ekornes.com.au.



GARDENING Q&A

Q We've just bought a holiday house near the beach. We want to make the garden nice but keep it low-maintenance and possibly attract birdlife. The soil is sandy and we do get salty winds. What plants would you suggest?
Emily Potts, Forster, NSW

A Banksias are ideal as they're water-wise, trouble-free and highly bird-attracting. Try coastal banksia (*B. integrifolia*), silver banksia (*B. marginata*) and Banksia 'Giant Candles'. Coastal hibiscus (*H. tiliaceus*) is a lovely shade tree that bears yellow flowers much of the year. Frangipani is also a good choice. New Zealand Christmas bush (*Metrosideros*) and coastal tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) make good screening hedges. Coastal rosemary (*Westringia*) is a tough medium shrub, especially 'Jervis Gem', 'Sea Mist' and 'Glabra Cadabra' varieties. A group of these, easily clipped into round clusters, make a strong statement. Other shrubs include Correa alba, dwarf oleanders, hibiscus, French lavender, rosemary, fragrant Carissa 'Desert Star' and many grevilleas. Don't forget the textural contribution of grasses and strappy-leaf plants, used most effectively when planted in swathes. Try Lomandra 'Tanika' and 'Lime Tuff', Dianella 'Little Jess', New Zealand flax (*Phormium*) and some of the newer agapanthus varieties. Add organic matter and SaturAid granules to the soil; keep beds mulched. *Helen Young*

Photograph by Will Horner/bauersyndication.com.au (banksia).



the green house

trees of life

Healthy trees more than boost our spirits, they contribute to our survival, writes Sarah Pickette.

Scientifically and anecdotally, it's clear that spending time surrounded by trees and green space is good for our health and wellbeing. But parks and trees do more than simply soothe – they play a crucial role in cooling our cities and population.

"Tree cover is extremely important in Australian cities. It has the potential to reduce ground-surface temperature by up to eight degrees celsius," says Professor Steffen Lehmann, former head of Curtin University's School of Built Environment and an advocate of national green initiative 202020 Vision – the aim of which is to press upon civic and government leaders the need to increase the amount of urban green space in Australian cities by 20 per cent by 2020.

"Our cities are experiencing localised warming due to a lack of trees and large amounts of paved and dark-coloured surfaces, which has led to the so-called 'urban heat island' effect," says Professor Lehmann. The implications of this are that our cities are "baking like ovens", he says, and this means buildings will require more energy to keep cool, and cities will see increases in heat-related illnesses.

Professor Lehmann says that the recommended amount of green space a city should have to avoid the urban heat island effect is 30 per cent. "Metropolitan Sydney is terribly undersupplied with tree coverage; it only has 15 per cent. And Melbourne is worse, with 13 per cent."

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects supports the position of 202020 Vision, citing research conducted by Melbourne City Council which found the average temperatures in Melbourne's CBD are already up to 4°C higher than in surrounding suburbs. In the evenings, the temperature difference can be up to 12°C. As a result, health risks increase for the most vulnerable in a city's population.

Professor Lehmann says green space can take the form of parks, pockets of bushland and wetlands, community gardens, green walls and roofs, and plantings along transport corridors. Councils, urban planners, developers and regulatory bodies all have it within their power to boost the area a city devotes to green space, he says.

"Greenery aids the wellbeing of city dwellers, and if designers and planners embrace its inclusion, the result will be whole areas of the city that look good, consume less energy and don't contribute to overheating." **H&G**

Visit www.202020vision.com.au.

Photograph by Scott Hawkins/bauersyndication.com.au.



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HEALTH

DEM DRY BONES



From childhood on, the right forms of exercise shape your response to the ageing process – you'll feel it in your bones, writes **Paula Goodyer.**

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

Bones act as a storehouse for calcium, and if we don't get enough from our diet, we'll take it from our bones, putting them at risk of deterioration. The Australian Dietary Guidelines advises eating between two-and-a-half and four serves of dairy (mainly reduced-fat) every day. Don't eat dairy? The Dietitians Association of Australia recommends plant-based sources such as calcium-fortified soy, rice or other cereal drinks, firm tofu, almonds, brazil nuts, unhulled tahini and dark leafy greens.



'[CHILDHOOD] IS AN IMPORTANT "WINDOW" PERIOD FOR BUILDING PEAK BONE MASS.' DR RACHEL DUCKHAM

An older Australian breaks a bone roughly every 3.6 minutes, according to Osteoporosis Australia. And if that figure's not frightening enough, let's fast-forward to 2022, when it's predicted there'll be one fracture every 2.9 minutes.

The best way to fight this scary, looming epidemic of fragile bones is by banishing two myths: that walking is the best exercise for bones, and that it's only the over-50s who need to worry about bone density, says Dr Rachel Duckham, a research fellow at Deakin University's Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research.

"We think of osteoporosis as an older person's disease, but it may originate in childhood and show itself in older age," she says. "Therefore, the groundwork for preventing thinning bones is done in childhood; this is an important 'window' period for building peak bone mass, which may help protect against osteoporosis in later life."

Bone's best friend at every age is regular exercise, but it must be the right kind: look to high-impact and multi-directional movements that load the bone, found in sports such as netball, basketball and AFL or activities like jumping, hopping and skipping, says Dr Duckham. "Jogging is great cardio exercise and has some bone benefits, but more effective is a fitness program that combines jogging with high-impact bone-loading activities such as strength training and short bursts of jumping.

"In older adults who walk for fitness, including uphill and brisk walking as well as stair climbing will target bone health and help slow bone loss," she says

"Regular strength training is another great investment when it comes to preserving bone, reducing fracture risk and improving muscle strength and muscle power – after all, it's muscle power that can help prevent falls by maintaining your speed of movement and the ability to react quickly enough to save yourself if you stumble."

One way to hang on to muscle power and strength in young and older adults is with high-intensity resistance training, which involves lifting or pushing a weight rapidly as opposed to using slower, more controlled movements.

"But, to prevent injury, it's best to first learn the correct technique with an expert, such as an exercise physiologist or certified personal trainer," says Dr Duckham. **H&G**

Illustration by Domenic Bahmann.

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SUN HACKS



If you worshipped the sun in your youth and have the age spots to show it, don't despair, help is here, writes **Elisabeth King.**

Sun damage and the natural ageing process seriously slow the production of collagen, the 'scaffolding' protein that keeps skin looking firm and youthful. The sunburns of your youth start to catch up with you in your thirties and changes in hormone levels, with the help of continuing sun damage, lead to the build-up of pigment known as age spots. Fortunately, new technological developments and scientific research have produced a crop of advanced skin treatments that help to protect skin and reverse the signs of ageing.

1 / Lancôme Visionnaire Nuit Beauty Sleep Perfector, $139. Retinol is the most potent wrinkle buster but it can irritate the skin. Visionnaire Nuit, a gel-in-oil night treatment, continues the work of Lancôme's bestselling Visionnaire serum by further repairing and rejuvenating the skin as you sleep.

2 / L'Oreal Paris Revitalift LaserX3 Night Peeling Lotion and Complete Care SPF15, $45/each. This duo packs a one-two punch to reduce the appearance of pigmentation and wrinkles. Start with the night peeling lotion containing four per cent glycolic acid and one per cent A-hydroxy acid – the main ingredients used in professional peels. L'Oreal claims the exfoliation results are similar to three IPL sessions.

3 / Shiseido is an expert in skin brightening and has amped up the power of its White Lucent range. The four product line-up includes White Lucent Luminizing Surge ($98), Luminizing Infuser, $90, Micro Targeting Spot Corrector, from $149, and Multi Bright Night Cream, $140. Use together to strengthen skin barriers and fade dark spots.

4 / Dr LeWinn's Eternal Youth Luminosity Day & Night Cream, $70. This one-size-fits-all moisturiser helps to provide extra glow with the key ingredients, 24 karat gold, X50 Photoglow and skin-firming Juvelen.

5 / La Prairie Anti-Aging Rapid Response Booster, $335. The most advanced line eraser in La Prairie's arsenal; environmental damage is minimised and skin looks smoother and more hydrated.

6 / Clarins Mission Perfection Serum, $90. Clarins claims that Acerola extract blocks cell messengers from producing an upsurge in the skin-darkening pigment melanin. A powerful spot-correcting molecule, ginkgo biloba and fruit acids also help to treat acne marks, age spots and dullness. **H&G**

Panama Castaway hat , $225, and pandanus fan, $5, both My Island Home; www.myislandhome.com.au.

BEST BUY

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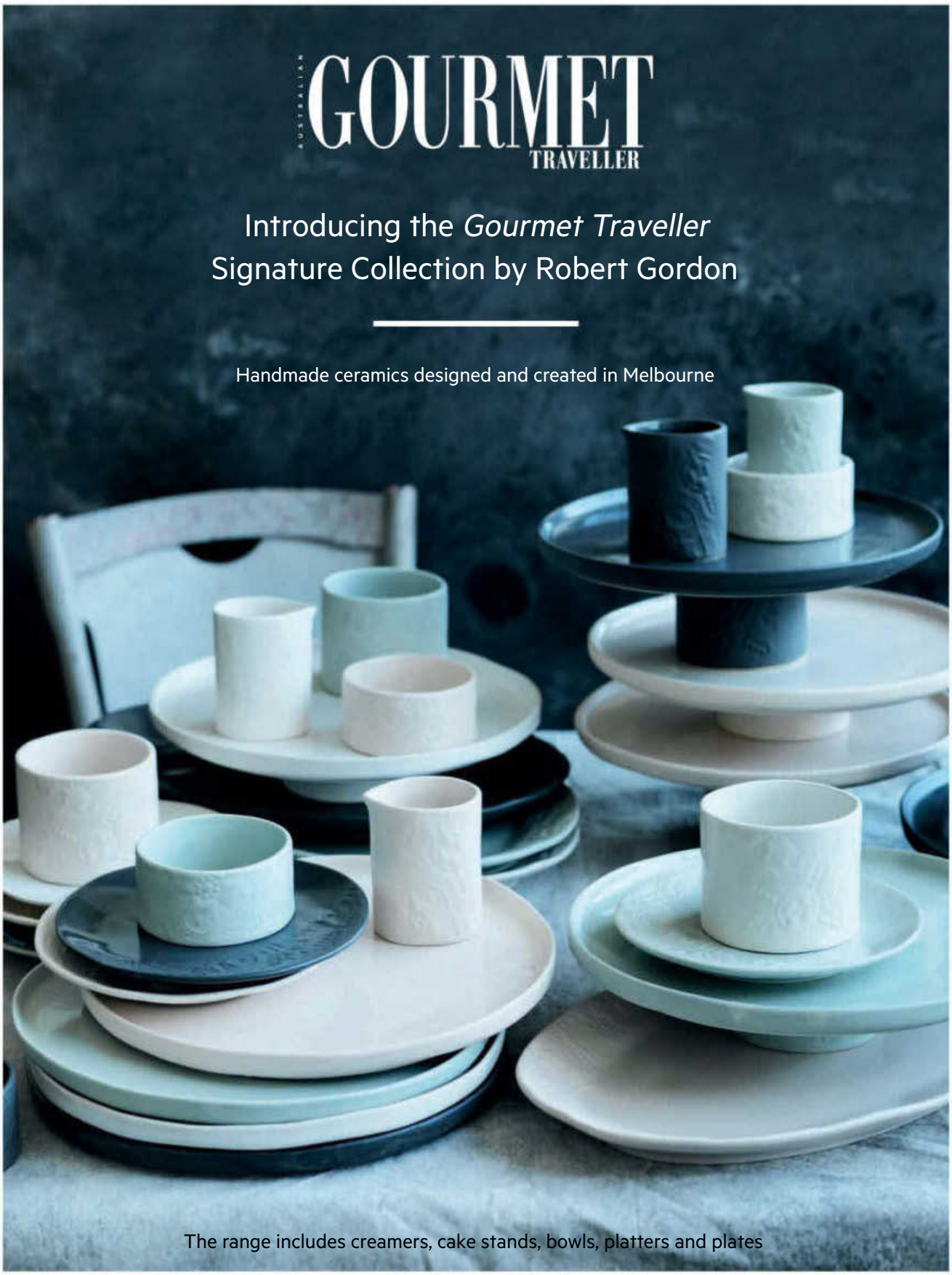
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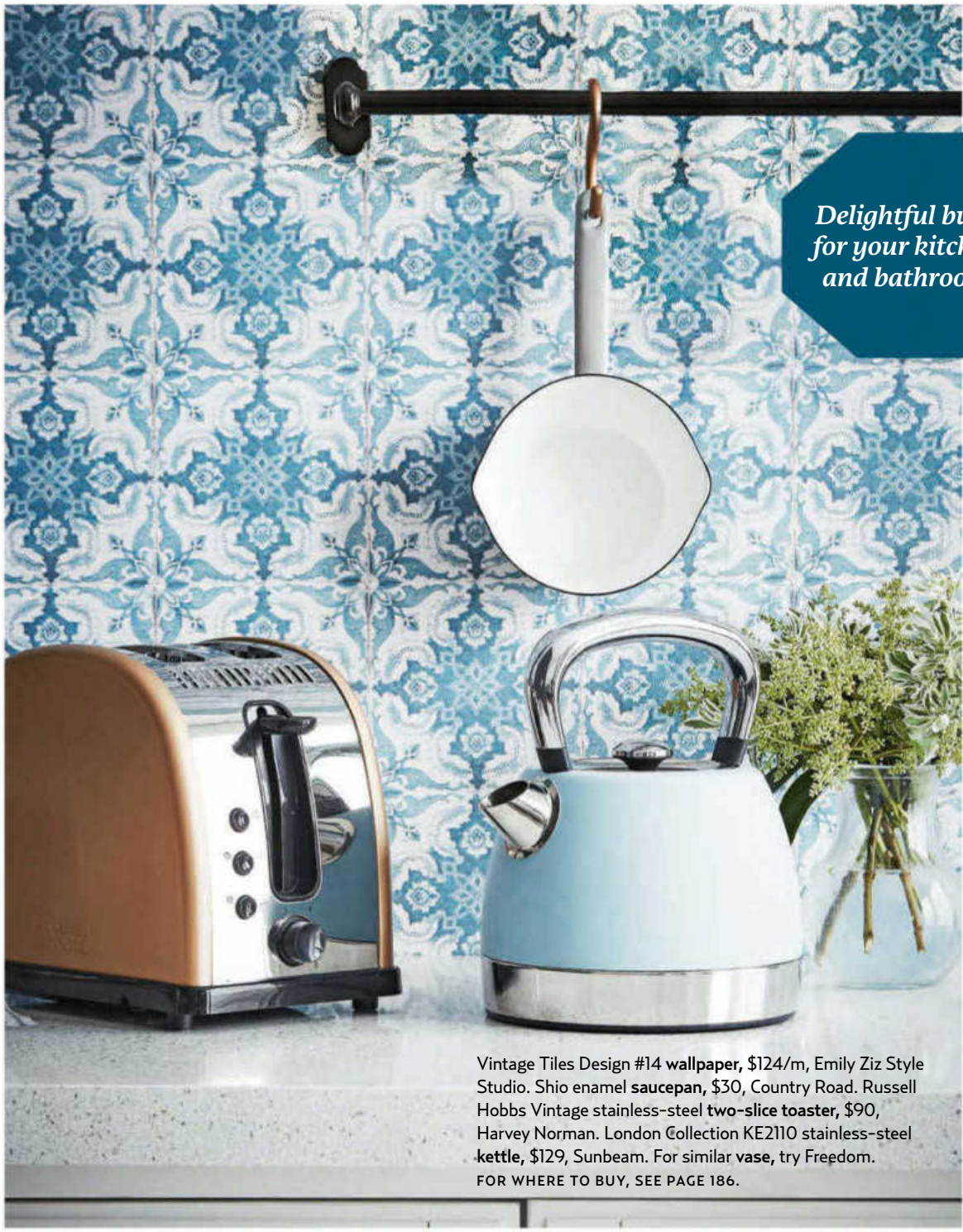
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Delightful buys for your kitchen and bathroom

Vintage Tiles Design #14 **wallpaper,** $124/m, Emily Ziz Style Studio. Shio enamel **saucepan,** $30, Country Road. Russell Hobbs Vintage stainless-steel **two-slice toaster,** $90, Harvey Norman. London Collection KE2110 stainless-steel **kettle,** $129, Sunbeam. For similar **vase,** try Freedom.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

SHOPPING

50 FAB BUYS FOR UNDER $150 / 9 BY DESIGN

Styling by Kayla Gex. Photograph by Will Horner.

50 FAB buys for under $150

EVERYDAY HEROES

Kitchen and bathroom accessories that are lovely to look at and a pleasure to use.

STYLING **KAYLA GEX** / PHOTOGRAPHY **WILL HORNER**



Vintage Tiles Design #14 **wallpaper** (127cm wide), $124/m, Emily Ziz Style Studio. **ON BENCH from left** Oiva stoneware **storage jar,** $69, Marimekko. Eva Solo plastic, stainless-steel and glass 1L **vacuum jug** in Granite Green, $115, Until. Copper **pomegranate,** $50, Gewürzhaus. Kinto Bottlit glass **jars with cork stoppers,** $40 (600ml), and $30 (300ml), Top3 by Design. Teku teak **mortar and pestle,** $40, Papaya. *Schinus* **pink peppercorns,** $16, Gewürzhaus. No.1 Sel du Jardinier **gourmet spice blend,** $23, Plain & Simple Australia. Shinto porcelain **bowl/votive,** $13, Papaya. Trend Surfaces **composite-granite surface** in White Star, from $750/m² (installed), Granite Transformations. Vermont timber **two-door console,** $799, Freedom. Fintorp powder-coated metal **rail,** $10, Ikea. **ON RAIL** Nomess **S-Hooks** in Copper, $35/pack of five, Top3 by Design. FD Style stainless-steel **grater** in Matt Black, $55, Saison. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.

Shop the KITCHEN



Stylist's assistant Sarah Maloney. Background painted Daintree, $46/L, Dulux. Currency conversion correct at time of printing.

Shop the BATHROOM



ON WALL Kingston **mirrors with shelves,** from $150/each, Amalfi. Svartsjön plastic **tumbler,** $4, Ikea. Cote Bastide Tilleul **eau de toilette,** $70, Saison. Purifying **Facial Exfoliant Paste,** $51, Aesop. Svartsjön steel **hook,** $3, Ikea. Karadeniz cotton **bathrobe,** $135, and Ottoman blackened-brass **tap,** $135, Atolyia. **ON VANITY TOP from left** Aria steel **jars** in Copper, $80/set of three, Amalfi. Peppermint Grove Australia Christmas Pine **candle,** $40, Myer. Mondella Overture ceramic **basin,** $144, Bunnings. Savon de Cuisine Basil Agrume **liquid soap,** $35, Plain & Simple Australia. **ON VANITY SHELF from left** Glass **jar** with pewter lid and rose detail, $40, The Bronte Tram. Unikko cotton **hand towel** in White, $37, and Unikko cotton **bath towels** in White, $72/each, Marimekko. Morgan & Finch Izmir cotton **bath towel** in Marine Blue/Ivory, $40, Bed Bath N' Table. Metallic **washable paper bag** in Rose, $28, Uashmama. Captain jute and cotton **storage cube,** $40, Papaya. Unikko **bath towel,** as before. Abaca Tall **lidded basket,** $129, West Elm. Morgan & Finch Irma cotton **bath mat** in White, $30, Bed Bath N' Table. Wall painted Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in Daintree, $46/L, Dulux. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 186.



Cote Bastide Ambre **potpourri crystals,** $80, Saison.

Morgan & Finch Antique Floral cotton **bath mat,** $60, Bed Bath N' Table.

Wild Flower cotton **mules,** $49, Papinelle.

Svartsjön plastic **soap dispenser** in Turquoise, $6, Ikea.

Porcelain **tray** in Salmon Pink, $8, Muji.

Hampton Body Range Green Tea **liquid soap,** $30, and **body lotion,** $33, Plain & Simple Australia.

Lollia shea butter **hand cream** in Breathe, $35, Papinelle.

Acca Kappa beech **hairbrush,** $55, and **comb,** $40, Saison.

Lena dolomite **soap dish** in Green, $13, Bed Bath N' Table.

Morgan & Finch Izmir cotton **bath towel** in Marine Blue/Ivory, $40, Bed Bath N' Table.

Aria steel **jars** in Copper, $80/set of three, Amalfi. **H&G**

Bartlett reclaimed wood and iron console, $1339, Pottery Barn.



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1 / This... Design & Living Geo copper **lantern,** from $40, Scandinalia; www.scandinalia.com.au. **2 /** Old Chinese paper and wire mesh **lantern,** $250, Few and Far; www.fewandfar.com.au. **3 /** Henson steel and glass **lantern,** $60, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. **4 /** Bola 25 cotton **lantern,** $40, The Society Inc; www.thesocietyinc.com.au. **5 /** Moroccan metal **lantern,** $70, Bunnings; www.bunnings.com.au. **6 /** Q120 Bedarra teak, glass and metal **lantern,** $484, Satara; www.satara.com.au. **7 /** Helm mangowood and glass **hurricane lamp** with wire detail, $495, Boyd Blue; www.boydblue.com. **8 /** NF Living Drake ceramic **lantern,** $50, Domayne; www.domayneonline.com.au. **9 /** Large Catalina reconstituted-stone and resin **hurricane lamp,** $100, Papaya; www.papaya.com.au. Texline Essence vinyl flooring in Borie Nature, $49/m² (installed), Gerflor; www.gerflor.com.au. Wall painted Endure Interior in Brigade, $84/4L, Taubmans; www.taubmans.com.au. **H&G**

9 BY DESIGN

WRITING DESKS



1 / Stellar Works Laval steel **desk** with ash and leather top, from $2565, Living Edge; www.livingedge.com.au. **2 /** Navy American-oak **desk,** $3610, Jardan; www.jardan.com.au. **3 /** De La Espada Tray European-ash **desk,** from $7755, Criteria; criteriacollection.com.au. **4 /** Kirby steel **desk** with oak, MDF and particleboard top, $159, Officeworks; www.officeworks.com.au. **5 /** Warehouse recycled-packing crate **desk,** $2150, Mark Tuckey; www.marktuckey.com.au. **6 /** Pure iron **desk** with reclaimed-teak top, $1295, Weylandts; www.weylandts.com.au. **7 /** Ligne Roset Ursuline lacquered-steel **desk** with walnut-veneer top, $3250, Domo; domo.com.au. **8 /** Archibald wood and glass **desk,** $399, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. **9 /** Manhattan American-oak **desk** with zinc top, $3665, Coco Republic; www.cocorepublic.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Sarah Maloney.

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On our cover

This kitchen transformation in a Sydney home is all about maximising assets, with a sleek, art-filled new layout oriented towards glorious harbour views. To see more of this and other covetable kitchen designs, turn to our special on page 139. Photograph by Nicholas Watt.

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show & tell

SHARING ✚ NEWS ✚ IDEAS





In the family

Here's the story behind the beautiful models in our decorating shoot on page 35: they're all children of *H&G* staff. Clockwise from top: Henry, 19 months, is the son of interiors editor Kate Nixon and goes by the nickname 'Handsome' when he visits the office. Gracing our teen's room is Billie, 14, eldest daughter of editor in chief Lisa Green. The studious model for our boy's room is Tsering, 10, son of chief subeditor/travel editor Vanessa Walker, while the golden fairy, three-year-old Ariella, is the child of stylist's assistant Sarah Maloney. And the four-legged cutie? That's Chief, a pug/Tibetan spaniel cross, whose 'mum' is senior stylist Ashley Pratt.









IN THE KNOW *H&G*'S WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER DELIVERS THE LATEST IN HOMES, DESIGN, DECORATING, GARDENING AND SALES TO YOUR INBOX. SIGN UP AT HTTPS://GOO.GL/KEKJT7.



WATCH OUT FOR...

A *right royal treat*

We can't wait for the premiere of the Netflix series *The Crown,* due for release later this year. The first season of this lavish series about the British royals will cover the drama of political and palace life as 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth faces the daunting prospect of becoming queen. Sumptuous interiors, gowns and jewels guaranteed. www.netflix.com.au.





Smooth operator

Next time you hop up to boil the kettle, search 'Your coffee break' on the free Spotify desktop, iPhone or Androd app and tune in to a playlist of mellow, in-the-moment tunes.

blog In/Out, the blog of interiors studio Arent&Pyke, is eye-candy for the discerning. inoutdesignblog.com.





COOK'S DELIGHT

JAM SESSIONS

More summer fruit than you know what to do with? Chef, cookbook author and blogger David Lebovitz provides an easy-to-follow recipe for making jam that eliminates the need for fussy measuring and sugar thermometers. Find it at http://goo.gl/UQglvc.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH **"ONE CANNOT THINK WELL, LOVE WELL, SLEEP WELL, IF ONE HAS NOT DINED WELL."** VIRGINIA WOOLF

BOOK IT IN

Fresh from her holiday read-a-thon *H&G*'s Vanessa Walker recommends the Neapolitan quartet of novels (Penguin, $30/each) by Elena Ferrante, translated by Ann Goldstein, as must-reads.

"The four books recount the tumultuous lifelong friendship between two women growing up in poverty in Naples, each striving in her own way to overcome her circumstances," says Vanessa. "For three weeks I was utterly immersed."



EARLY READER

We love this Insta pic of little Charlie, daughter of Emma Mathews, from online homewares store Onxy & Smoke (www.onyxandsmoke.bigcartel.com). Charlie made her mum proud by proclaiming her admiration for plants she spotted in the February issue of *H&G*.



Instagrams to ogle

1 @mimi_brune
Domestic moments and food with a poetic, rustic feel.

2 @marte_marie_forsberg
A Norwegian photographer living in the English countryside. Need we say more?

3 @esochko
A homewares retailer chronicling world travels, beautiful interiors and food with a laidback, indie vibe.

Stay in touch

Your feedback is important to us, so please let us know what you think of our magazine. Call (02) 9282 8456, send an email to h&g@bauer-media.com.au, post a letter to *Australian House & Garden*, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028 or go to www.houseandgarden.com.au.

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Produced by Christina Gee. Photography by Maree Homer (children's rooms), Getty Images (coffee), John Paul Urizar/bauersyndication.com.au (jam), Felix Forest (Figtree house by Arent & Pyke, this page, top right).



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NEXT MONTH

The Renovation Issue!

✚ Life-changing design, before + after pics
✚ Winning garden looks
✚ Easter picnic ideas

Inspiration lives here...

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

On sale March 7



Photograph by Eve Wilson.



Things that make us SMILE



1 / Maro timber **birdhouse**, $75, Papaya; (02) 9386 9980 or www.papaya.com.au. 2 / Linen **scarf**, $80, Country Road; 1800 801 911 or www.countryroad.com.au. 3 / Devon raffia **sun hat**, $70, Citta Design; (02) 9360 7904 or www.cittadesign.com. 4 / Redecker oiled beechwood and stainless-steel **gutter shovel**, $55, Henry Bucks; 1800 651 399 or www.henrybucks.com.au. 5 / Ivy Muse Nest copper-plated table-top **plant stand with grey porcelain vessel**, $170 (16cm high), Fenton & Fenton; (03) 9533 2323 or www.fentonandfenton.com.au. 6 / Extra-large oak **string tidy with blade cutter**, $110, Father Rabbit; +64 9 360 2573 or www.fatherrabbit.com. 7 / Barr-Co lemon verbena **hand cream**, $40, Saison; (03) 9078 3747 or www.saison.com.au. 8 / Ishinomaki Laboratory red cedar **carry stool**, $175, Garden Objects; www.garden-objects.com. 9 / Sprout goatskin **garden gloves** in Coral, $27, Mr Sparrow; (08) 9381 6362 or www.mrsparrow.com.au. 10 / Hessian **sack** in Thatch White, $85, The Dharma Door; (02) 6629 1114 or www.thedharmadoor.com.au. **H&G**

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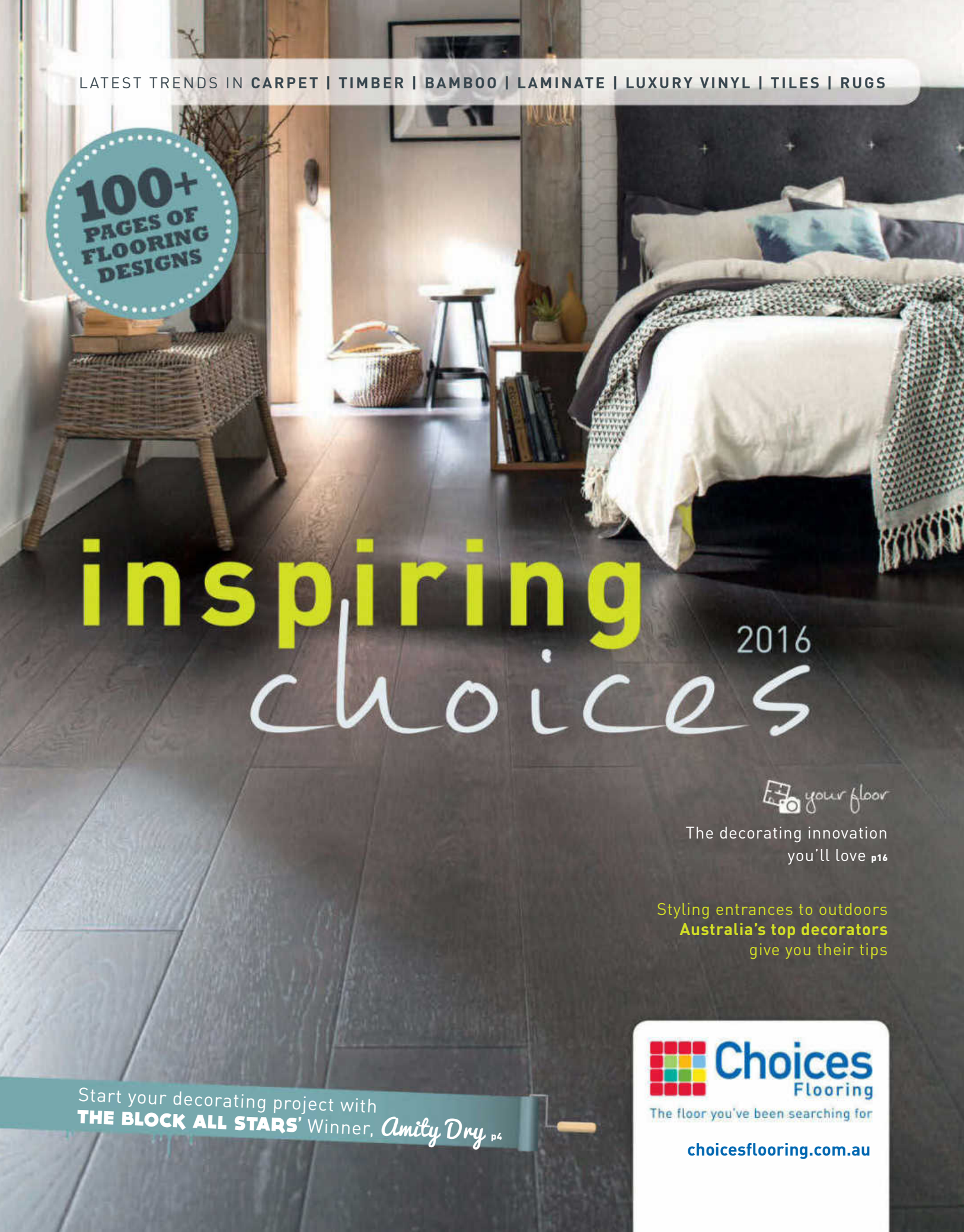
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guide to pricing

Inspiring Choices 2016 features price range indicators which reflect the product quality. These are identified based on a variety of factors, including materials (natural, engineered etc.), the manufacturing process, and the added benefits and features included in individual products (asthma friendly, extended warranties etc.). These price ranges are category specific and based on the product only, so they exclude freight and any extra services some Choices Flooring stores may provide, so they are to be used as a guide only.

$ Good Quality

$$ Better Quality

$$$ Best Quality

Some Choices Flooring stores across Australia include extra services within their final prices to make the installation of your flooring easy. These extra services may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Installation
- The moving of furniture
- Removal and disposal of old flooring
- Floor preparation
- Borders and trims
- Stair accessories
- Underlay

We encourage you to visit your local Choices Flooring store for further inspiration and a complimentary measure and quote (see page 108 for store details).



featured on the cover

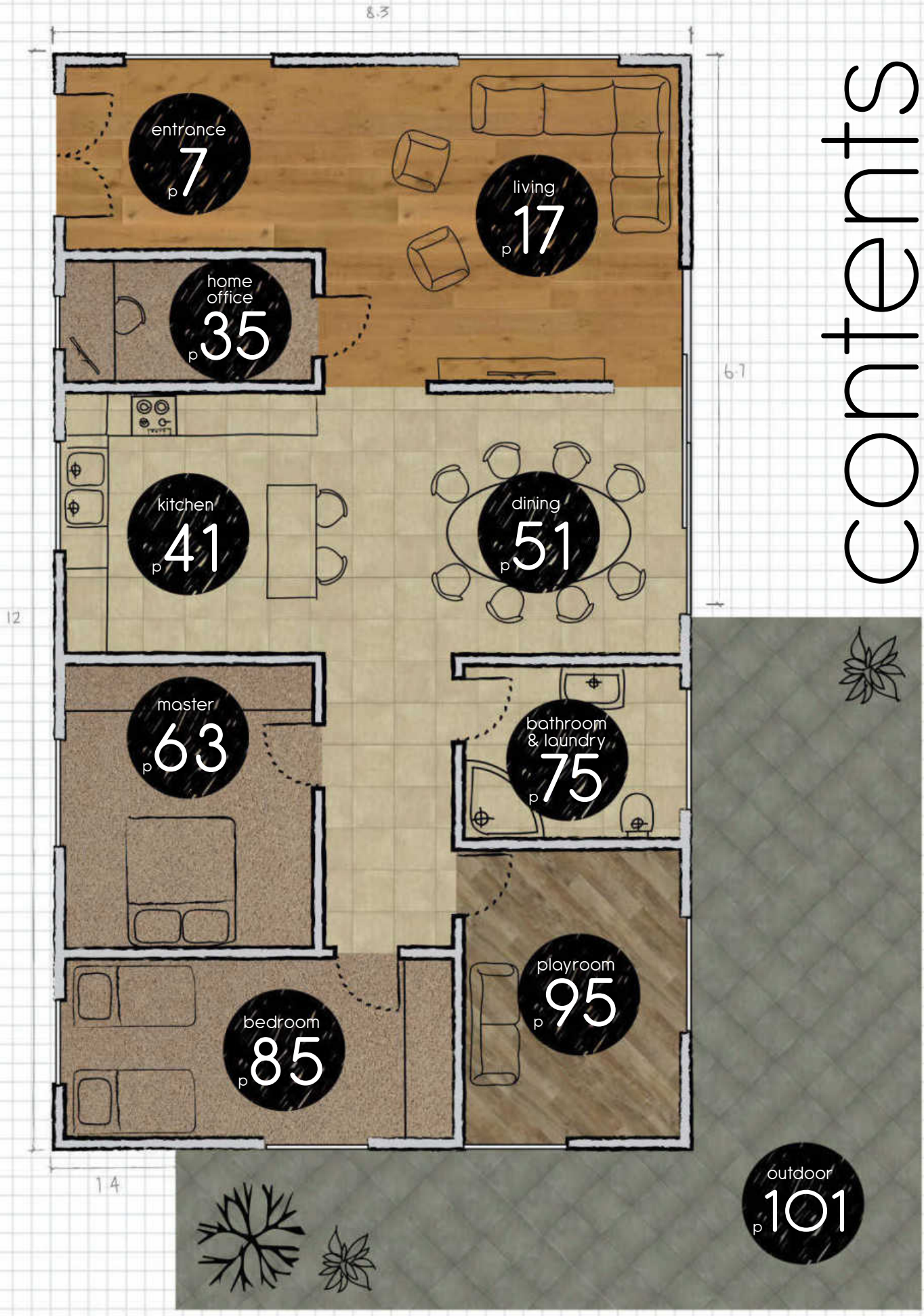
$$ **Plantino Engineered Oak**
Timber - 1 Strip (189mm)

6 Species Available
Species Featured: Siena

$$$ **Chez Moi**
Wall Tile - Ceramic

180mm x 100mm
Colour Featured: Blanc

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starting your decorating project

Amity Dry

Winner of *The Block All Stars*,
Singer, Writer & Stylist

I love a blank canvas. Renovating is a great challenge but when you have a brand new empty room to design it's a pretty exciting prospect.

Which is exactly what I have with the new home we're building, a whole house full of blank canvases that I get to style however my heart desires. Oh the fun of it!

I feel like I have spent the last ten years in preparation for building our first home, with a few practice runs and The Block series' in between to show me exactly what I do and don't want to do!

The biggest tip I can ever give anyone building, renovating or decorating is to do your research before you start and decide exactly what you want. This makes all the difference because you'll go into it with a clear vision and won't be confused by all the options when you're in the thick of your selections. I am pretty much obsessed with Pinterest,



1



2



Plantino Engineered Oak - Naturale
learn more on page 38.



3

Amity's LOOK BOOK



4



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Habitat Collection - Inscape
find out more about this carpet on page 39.

1. Plantation Buffet - vavoom.com.au **2.** Islington No. 23 - mylands.co.uk **3.** Hamptons Bedding - cranmorehome.com.au **4.** Pier Table Lamp - downthatlittlelane.com.au **5.** Mayfair Dark No. 218 - mylands.co.uk **6.** French Chic Armchair Pistachio Green Pinstripe - ghify.com **7.** St Martins Paint No. 37 - mylands.co.uk

as well as Instagram and magazines, and have used all three of them to put together mood boards for all of my decorating projects. I spend hours looking at pictures and documenting the ones that jump out at me and make me feel happy. Because that's what a finished room is supposed to do, make you happy when you're in it!

The style I love more than anything is the classic look of the Hamptons homes, so I studied photos of these houses and made note of how they've been put together. When you take this approach you'll quickly notice that you see the same materials being used over again, which helps narrow down your own choices. For me, when it came to flooring I definitely knew I wanted a carpet in the master bedroom and timber floorboards throughout the rest of the home, because they fit that relaxed warm elegance I was after, and the tones I kept seeing in the photos were natural oaks.

So when I went to my local Choices Flooring store to look at floorboards and carpet with my Pinterest pics and magazine cut outs ready, I matched them to the options they had. I also took samples of my kitchen cupboards, benchtops and paint colour cards, to make sure they all worked in harmony. Again, the more preparation you do beforehand the more smoothly it goes when you're standing in the store feeling overwhelmed by the options.

After taking a few different samples home to view them at different times of the day, the flooring I ended up choosing was Habitat Collection – Inscape and Plantino Engineered Oak – Naturale, which were exactly what I was looking for and matched the Hamptons look perfectly. I am so excited to see it all come together, as I turn my blank canvas into a beautifully styled home. Let's hope the end result is perfectly Pinterest worthy and soon others will use my Hamptons home as inspiration for their own project!

For more tips on getting started see p60.

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Plantino Engineered Oak
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6 Species Available
Species Featured: St Moritz



Sarah Pickette
Features Editor, *Australian House & Garden*

Hello, welcome, come in! This is what the entrance to your home says to visitors as you open the door.

First impressions are always the most important, so it pays to think about how your home appears to guests as they first step into it. On the outside, a doormat, plants in handsome pots and good lighting will do the trick. Inside, you have far more freedom—and the opportunity to make a statement about your home and the people who live there. The important thing to remember is that this is a high-traffic area, so ensure your flooring can handle all the feet that will be traipsing in and out daily.

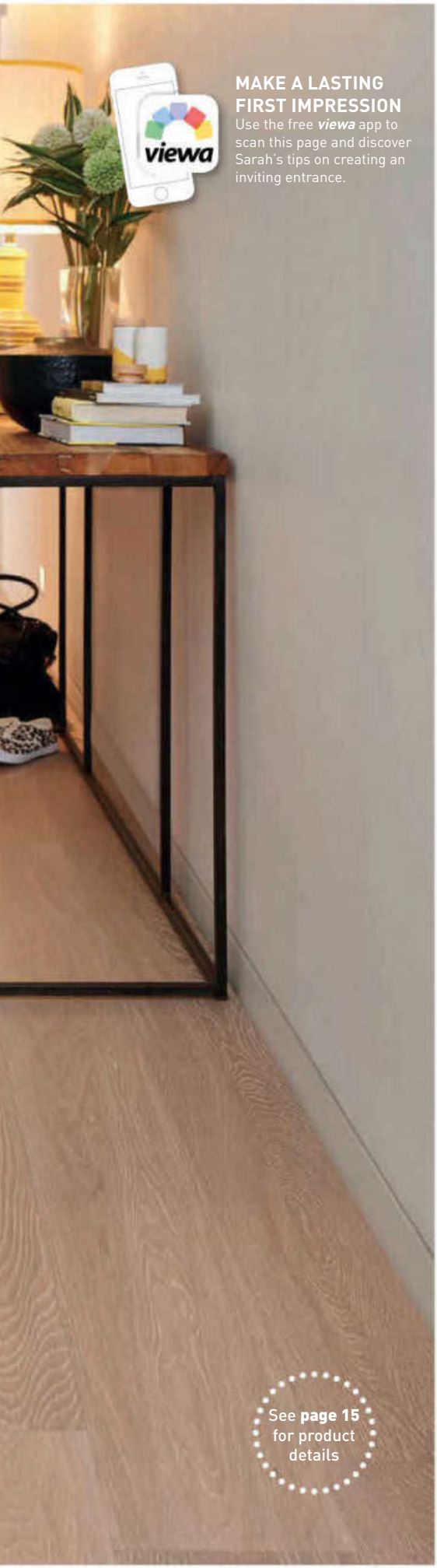
If space allows, a console or even a small side table is a valuable addition to your home's entrance. This is an ideal spot for a vase of flowers, a favourite artwork or a decorative bowl into which you can drop your keys. Consider a coat stand or hooks (there are so many great-looking hooks on the market now) if you have lots of coats and schoolbags that need to be stowed somewhere accessible.

The flooring you choose for the entrance of your home will in many cases be the same as what you run through to the living areas of your home. If your front door opens into a hallway, long, wide timber flooring may be top of your wishlist, but if your budget is limited consider bamboo, laminates and luxury vinyl planks. They are a timeless choice.

A generous foyer can benefit greatly from being tiled. A natural stone or stone-look large format tile won't date but if you want to stamp a little personality onto your home consider laying boldly patterned tiles in that space. Moroccan-style decorative tiles would look fabulous, as would simple rectangular tiles laid in a herringbone pattern. The choices are limitless.

Carpet makes for the warmest welcome. It invites your visitors to kick off their shoes and feel right at home. Whether you opt for wool, synthetic or a blend, ensure your carpet can stand up to foot traffic, won't stain when muddy boots plod in the door and, if you have glass panels by your front door, that it won't fade in the sun.

Rugs are a wonderful addition to an entrance; they inject instant comfort, colour and texture. A rug has the power to enliven the space immensely. Have fun with colour and pattern but ensure you choose a rug that fills out the bulk of the available floor area; anything smaller will look out of scale. If your door opens into a hallway what could be more welcoming than a long runner that extends to your living zone?



MAKE A LASTING FIRST IMPRESSION
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page and discover Sarah's tips on creating an inviting entrance.

See **page 15** for product details

the LOOK BOOK



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

1. Dipped Basket Pendant Lights - ecochic.com.au **2.** Welcome Doormat - tch.net **3.** Brick Vase - in-spaces.com **4.** Black & Gold Bowl - hotel4home.com **5.** Bull Key Holder - oakroomshop.co.uk **6.** Emporium Friends Welcome Print - emporiumhome.com.au **7.** Eva Dining Banquette - ecochic.com.au **8.** Amalfi Nomad Doorstop - amalfihomewares.com.au **9.** KSL Living Living Coat Rack - ksl-living.fr **10.** Bristol Console Table - sweetpeaandwillow.com **11.** Satara Brown Throw - satara.com.au **12.** Jackson Lamp - boydblue.com **13.** Natural Rope Knot Weighted Doorstop - tch.net **14.** Art Print Yellow Room - papercartel.com

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



cleaning tip

Dry vacuum wool carpet at least once a week, and more often in busy areas.

$$

Windsor Wool - Marrakech
Wool Berber Loop

5 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Interlude



$$ **Hycraft - Carramar**
Wool Loop

7 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Peat



See **page 106** for rug details



$ **The Eclipse Collection - Dreamstone**
Tile - Ceramic

400mm x 400mm
Colour Featured: Nut



Plantino Laminate
Laminate - 2 Strip

4 Designs Available
Design Featured: Blackwood



STAINMASTER® EverSoft® - Burrowa
Solution Dyed Nylon Textured

11 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Bushwalk



“An entrance is a great place for a gallery wall. It makes you feel at home the moment you walk in the door!”

Chris Carroll
thelifecreativeblog.com

Plantino Bamboo
Bamboo - 1 Strip $

4 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Straw



$$$

Plantino Laminate
Laminate - 1 Strip

5 Designs Available

Design Featured: Saw Mark Oak Natural



$$ Eternity - Park Road
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

7 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Fan Fare



Plantino Engineered Oak **$$**
Timber - 1 Strip (189mm)

6 Species Available
Species Featured: Corsican Grey





before



after

Decorating from the floor up with your floor

"After purchasing our first home off a lovely ninety three year old woman, there was no question that the interior needed to be modernised, with the apricot walls, dated lino, and patterned carpet being my highest priorities.

Selecting neutral paint colours for the interior walls was easy, but when it came to flooring it all became a bit overwhelming. We knew we wanted to have a timber look throughout our home with a charcoal toned carpet in the lounge room and bedrooms. We also wanted to keep the existing kitchen cabinetry, so whatever we selected had to work with these. With so many textures, tones and overall product options available, in addition to a budget we needed to keep to, my magazine cut outs were no longer any help.

When we visited our local Choices Flooring store, they made what I thought was going to be a tiring process easy. Using a program called 'Your Floor', we narrowed down our product options. Within two weeks, we had finalised the flooring for our new home.

The foundation of our interior has now been transformed from shades of Nanna to contemporary chic... and although this is only the start of our renovation projects, we couldn't be happier with the foundation we've set.

Aurora, Newtown NSW."

How it works

STEP 1

Visit **choicesflooring.com.au/your-floor** to upload your room images.

STEP 2

You will be given a unique code - print this out, or save it in your phone, as you need to have this with you when you visit your selected Choices Flooring store.

STEP 3

Select the participating Choices Flooring store that you would like to visit.

STEP 4

Visit your chosen Choices Flooring store and type your unique code into their Inspiration Station, this will allow you to visualise over 2,400 different flooring options in your room images.



See **page 106** for rug details

living

$$

Genero Design Platinum
Luxury Vinyl Plank

8 Designs Available
Design Featured: Honey Cedar



Karlie Verkerk
Features Writer and Subeditor, *Real Living*

ROOM TO ENTERTAIN
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page and get Karlie's styling tips for an entertaining living area.

It is a common conception that the kitchen is the hub of the home, but, just like the kitchen, a living area is a favourite place for families and couples to spend time together.

Whether you're relaxing and watching a movie, playing board games or simply having a good chit chat, it's important for the living area to be comfortable and cosy while also being versatile and functional.

Before a room can be decorated and furnished, it must have a suitable base. For the floors, take into account the style and era of your home, your budget, and the amount of wear and tear it will need to withstand before choosing the material. The living room is a high-traffic area, and will therefore need a hardwearing floor – timber, bamboo, luxury vinyl or twist carpet would best suit this room as they're timeless designs that are easy to clean.

When it comes to choosing furniture, firstly consider the size and shape of the room and how you can make the most of the space. If your living area is smaller, furniture with simple, sleek lines will help to visually enlarge the room, while bulkier pieces will work better in a larger space. Another important thing to consider is who uses the room, for example if you have young children or pets, choose solid furniture in darker colours as it will show less deterioration over time.

If open-plan living is your style, you can create definition with rugs – they work to "zone" the living area, visually demarcating it from the rest of the home. Rugs are also a great way to add a hit of pattern and colour to your space, and they work well on both hard floors and carpet. For a sophisticated, modern look, lay one large area rug under the seating area, and for a fun, eclectic feel, layer different rugs on top of each other like a patchwork quilt.

To ensure an inviting space, accessorise with soft touchy-feely textures in keeping with the season. For summer, stick to lighter materials such as sumptuous linens and billowing curtains in neutral tones. During winter, heavier accessories such as furry cushions and woollen throws in moody hues will help to create a feeling of warmth.

If you have space, an armchair is a stylish and handy addition to any living area – it can make use of an empty corner near a window, or simply be placed next to the sofa. Pair it with a floor lamp and a few plush cushions and you've got the perfect spot to cuddle up and read a good book.



See **page 27** for product details

the LOOK BOOK



1. Chloe Grey Blue Furla Button Back Club Chair - artisanti.com **2.** Bristol TV Cabinet - sweetpeaandwillow.com **3.** Discus Mirror - sweetpeaandwillow.com **4.** Dukes House No.44 - mylands.co.uk **5.** Fredrika Abstract Art - lifestylehomeandliving.com.au **6.** Jay Folding Screen - bocadolobo.com **7.** Copperfield Cushion - gabeandnix.com **8.** Amalfi Oslo Floor Lamp - amalfihomewares.com.au **9.** Lustre Vase - tch.net **10.** Thea Cushion - Grape - bambury.com.au **11.** CHIGNON Sofa - bykoket.com **12.** Porcelain Serving Tray - madebyhandonline.com **13.** Padstowe Pyramid Coffee Table - one.world **14.** Glenorchy Throw - wallacecotton.com **15.** Jamal Lamp - boydblue.com

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



cleaning tip

For timber floors, use a slightly damp mop, avoiding excessive amounts of water. Steam mops should not be used.

$$$

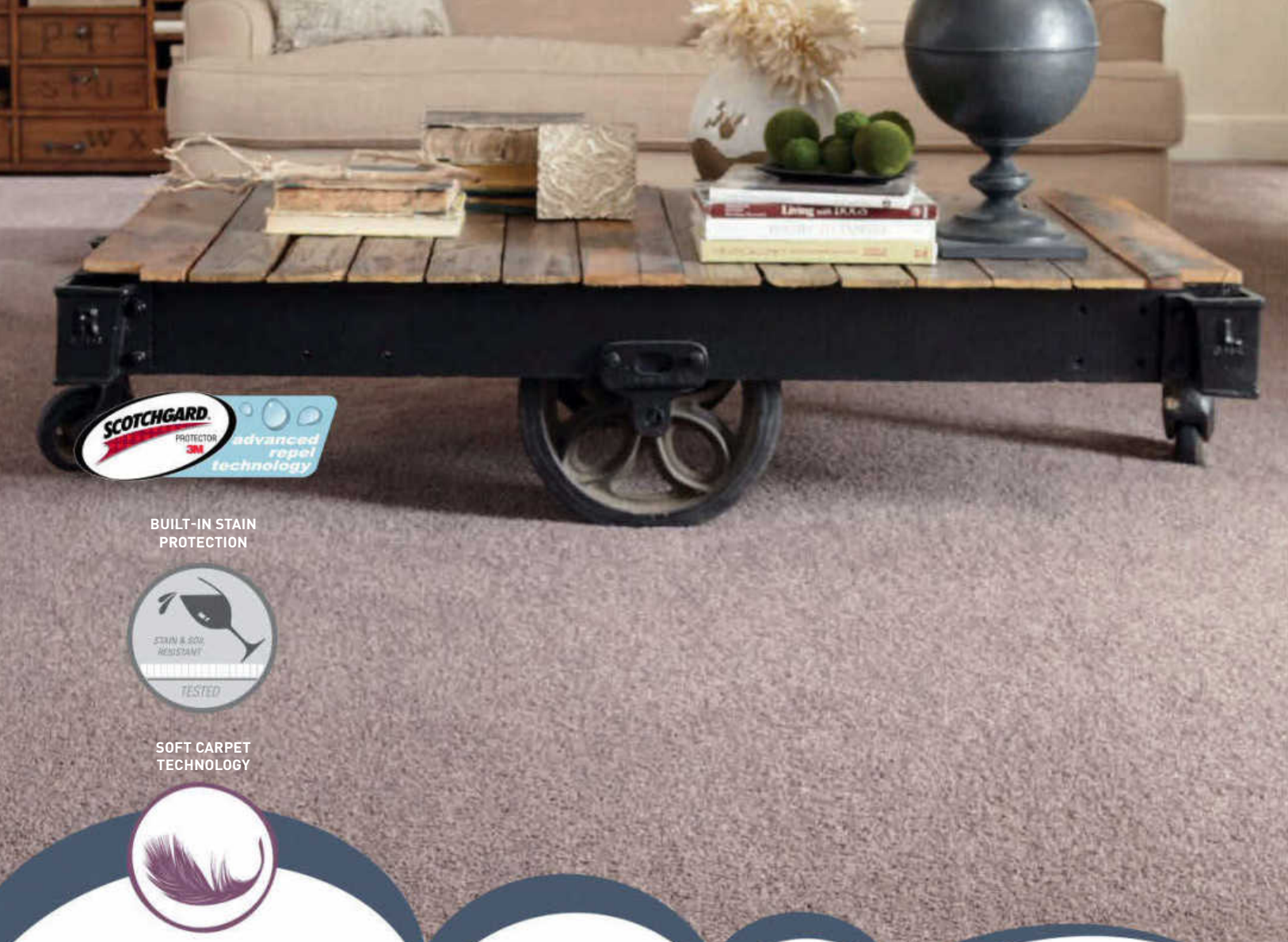
Plantino Engineered Oak
Timber - 1 Strip Wide Board (240mm)

4 Species Available
Species Featured: Calabria



Haven - Barat $
Polypropylene Textured

6 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Shadow



BUILT-IN STAIN PROTECTION

SOFT CARPET TECHNOLOGY

Introducing Serenity halo & divine

If you want a clean, sustainable carpet for your home, it's hard to go past Serenity Halo or the even more luxurious Serenity Divine. These premium PET polyester fibres are thoroughly purified for the cleanest strand and are easy to clean with advanced soil and stain protection. And, with up to 100% recycled content, they contribute to a better world.

Offering exceptional softness and fibre strength in 10 stylish colours, Serenity Halo and Divine transform any room.

To find out more about Serenity Halo and Divine, visit **choicesflooring.com.au**

Serenity halo

Serenity divine

MANUFACTURED BY MOHAWK

EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



Plantino Laminate Deluxe $$
Laminate - 1 Strip

6 Designs Available
Design Featured: Manhattan Loft



“A comfy sofa you can sink into will always make you feel at home, yet looks are just as important as comfort. In big spaces modular styles can help create a more intimate feel, while in small rooms opt for a sofa with slimline legs which expose more of the floor, helping to enhance the sense of space.”

Kylie Jackes
kyliejackes.blogspot.com.au

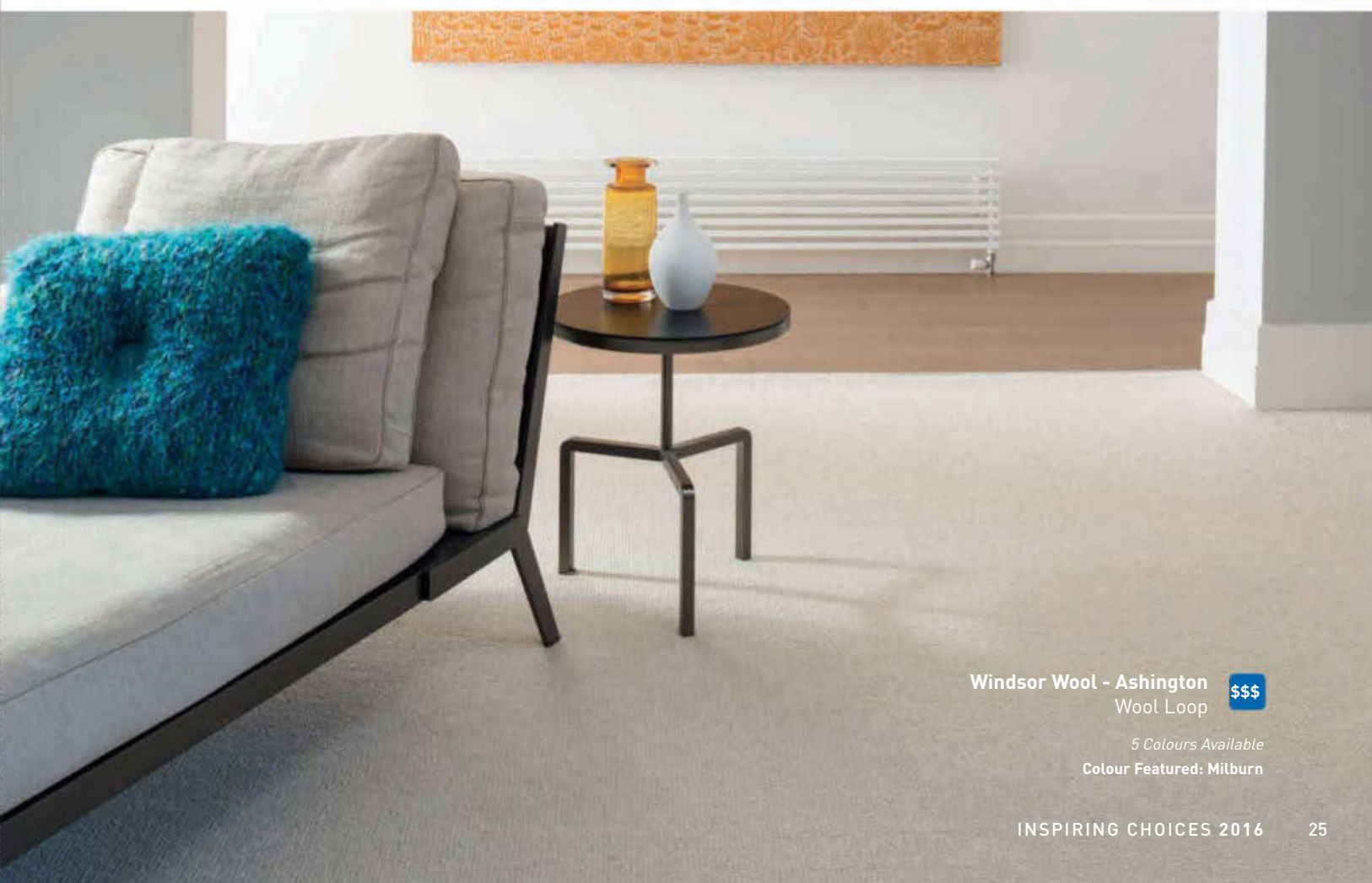
$$ **Habitat Collection - Stylex**
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Mineral Grey



Plantino Engineered Oak $$
Timber - 1 Strip (189mm)

6 Species Available
Species Featured: Veneto



Windsor Wool - Ashington $$$
Wool Loop

5 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Milburn



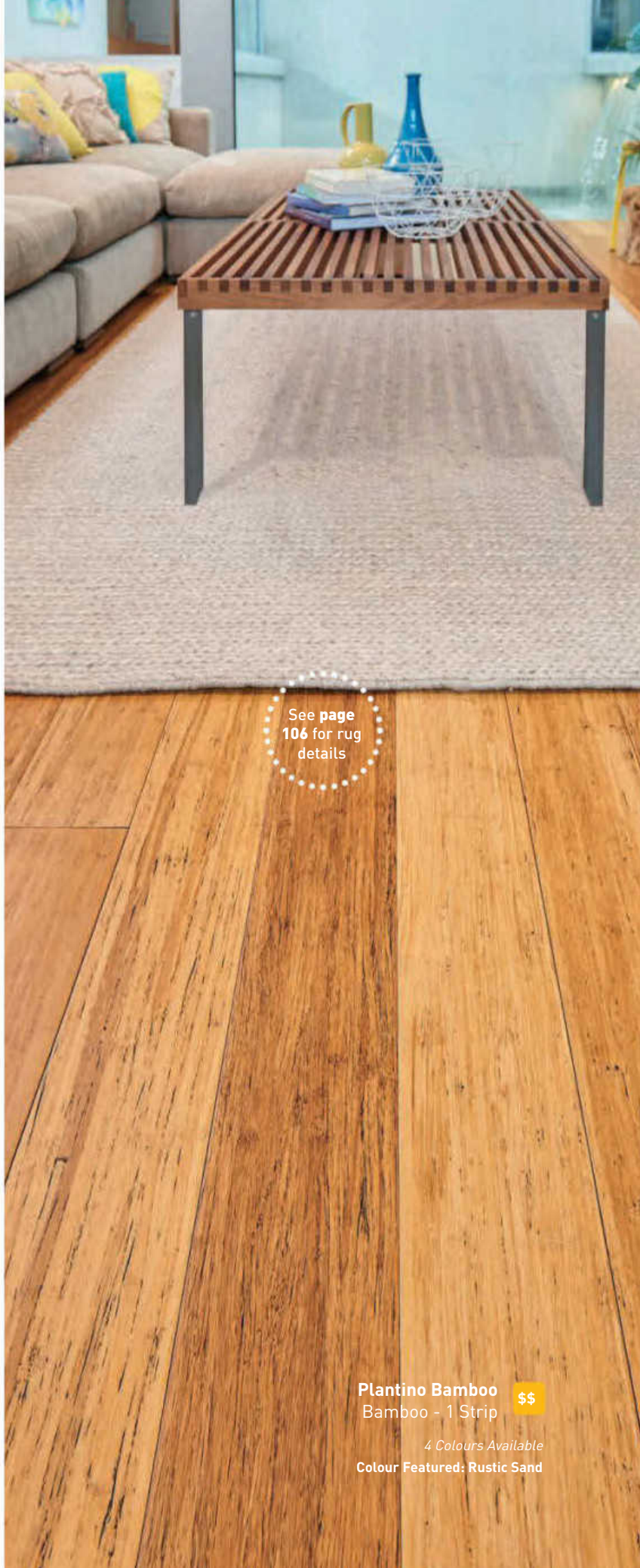
$$$ **Windsor Wool - Ashington**
Wool Loop

5 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Tyne



$$$ **Hycraft - Ravine**
Wool Textured

11 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Stonewall



See **page 106** for rug details

Plantino Bamboo $$
Bamboo - 1 Strip

4 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Rustic Sand



See **page 106** for rug details

Genero Euro $$
Luxury Vinyl Plank

16 Designs Available
Design Featured: Stone Oak



$$ **Brease - Eurus**
Solution Dyed Nylon Textured

9 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Novello

Genero Design Platinum **$$**
Luxury Vinyl Plank

8 Designs Available
Design Featured: Rustic Oak



cleaning tip

General carpet spills should be blotted, not rubbed vigorously, as this will only spread the spill.

Brease - Aquila
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

$

11 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Rebel



$$ **Windsor Wool - River Retreat**
Wool Textured

7 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Galley

See **page 106** for rug details

$ **Genero Design**
Luxury Vinyl Plank

16 Designs Available
Design Featured: Classic Oak

Eternity - Castlegrove $
Solution Dyed Nylon Textured

9 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Caprice

WEAR-DATED

SCOTCHGARD PROTECTOR 3M advanced repel technology

WEAR RESISTANCE



2x SPUN



Introducing Serenity oasis & nirvana

Everyone loves the feeling of a soft carpet underfoot. So if you're looking for one of the softest, premium nylon carpets available in Australia today, look no further than the two new exclusive ranges to Choices Flooring – Serenity Oasis or the even more luxurious Serenity Nirvana.

These premium nylon fibres are known for their strength, excellent wear and fade resistance, and durability. Each yarn is spun from two times the fibre of ordinary soft carpet, resulting in extraordinary, longer-lasting comfort. And with a collection of contemporary colours to choose from, you're sure to find the design you like in a carpet that lasts.

To find out more about Serenity Oasis and Nirvana, visit **choicesflooring.com.au**

Serenity oasis

Serenity nirvana

MANUFACTURED BY MOHAWK

EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT Choices Flooring

The floor you've been searching for



$$$ **Quick•Step® ReadyFlor**
Timber - 2 Strip

8 Species Available
Species Featured: NSW Spotted Gum



Quick•Step® ReadyFlor
Timber - 1 Strip $$$

10 Species Available
Species Featured: Matt Brushed Spotted Gum



$$$

Da Vinci Woodplank Collection
Luxury Vinyl Plank

13 Designs Available
Design Featured: Australian Walnut



home office

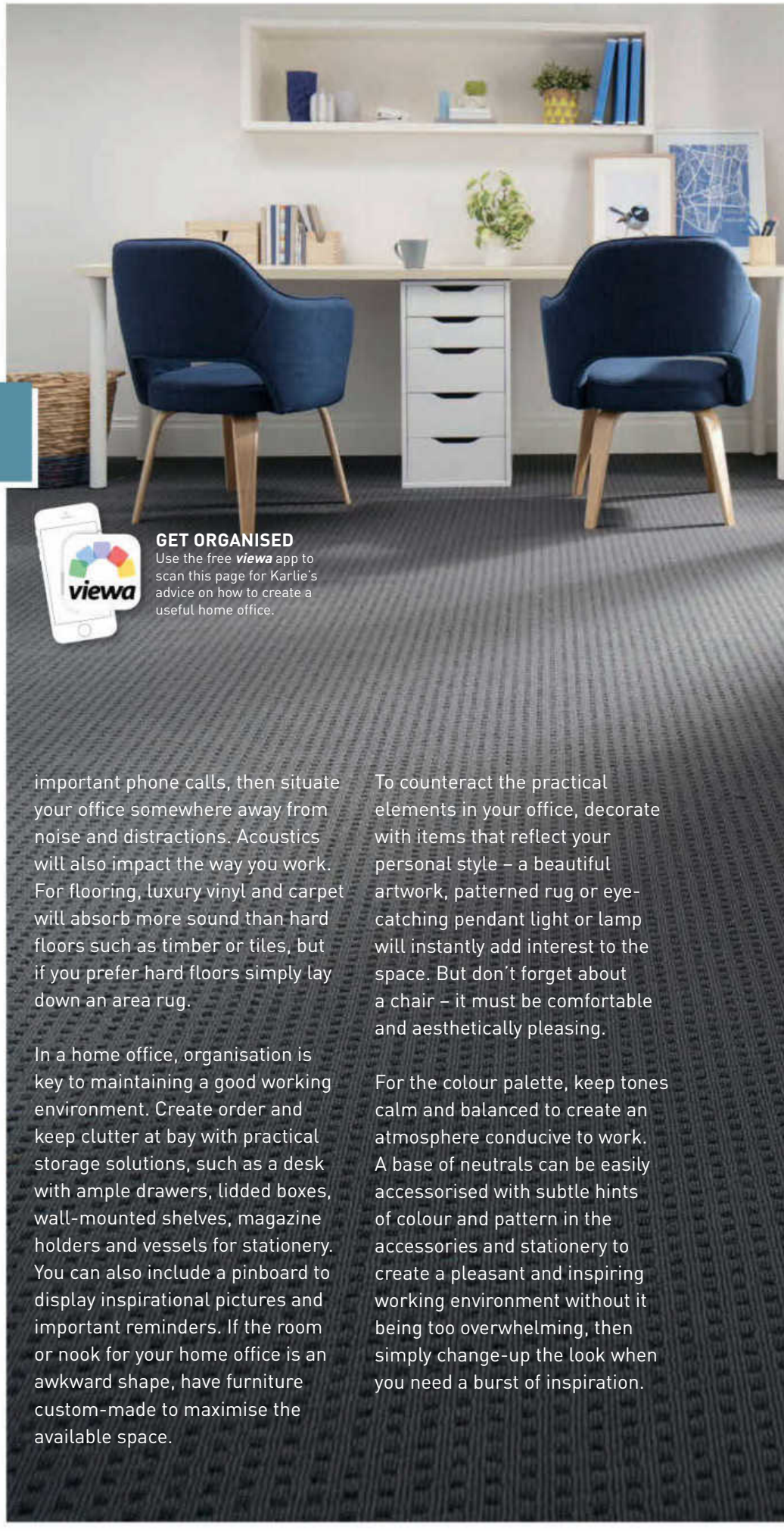
$$

Plantino Laminate
Laminate - 1 Strip

4 Designs Available
Design Featured: Ironbark



Karlie Verkerk
Features Writer and Subeditor, *Real Living*



GET ORGANISED
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page for Karlie's advice on how to create a useful home office.

Working from home is becoming more and more popular – and it doesn't have to be all work and no play.

A stylish and practical office space will make working or studying a much more pleasurable task and will help to increase productivity, too.

To create a home office that is both welcoming and well organised, you need to choose a space that is appropriate. It doesn't have to accommodate an entire room; if you're tight on space you can incorporate one seamlessly into an existing room or unused nook, such as a bare wall in a bedroom, a sunroom or even an empty space under the stairs or in the living area. Just make sure you take into consideration the amount of natural light and airflow the space receives – the more light and fresh air, the better you will feel when you're working. Indoor plants will also help breathe life into the space providing a burst of fresh greenery.

Another important consideration is privacy. If you will be making important phone calls, then situate your office somewhere away from noise and distractions. Acoustics will also impact the way you work. For flooring, luxury vinyl and carpet will absorb more sound than hard floors such as timber or tiles, but if you prefer hard floors simply lay down an area rug.

In a home office, organisation is key to maintaining a good working environment. Create order and keep clutter at bay with practical storage solutions, such as a desk with ample drawers, lidded boxes, wall-mounted shelves, magazine holders and vessels for stationery. You can also include a pinboard to display inspirational pictures and important reminders. If the room or nook for your home office is an awkward shape, have furniture custom-made to maximise the available space.

To counteract the practical elements in your office, decorate with items that reflect your personal style – a beautiful artwork, patterned rug or eye-catching pendant light or lamp will instantly add interest to the space. But don't forget about a chair – it must be comfortable and aesthetically pleasing.

For the colour palette, keep tones calm and balanced to create an atmosphere conducive to work. A base of neutrals can be easily accessorised with subtle hints of colour and pattern in the accessories and stationery to create a pleasant and inspiring working environment without it being too overwhelming, then simply change-up the look when you need a burst of inspiration.



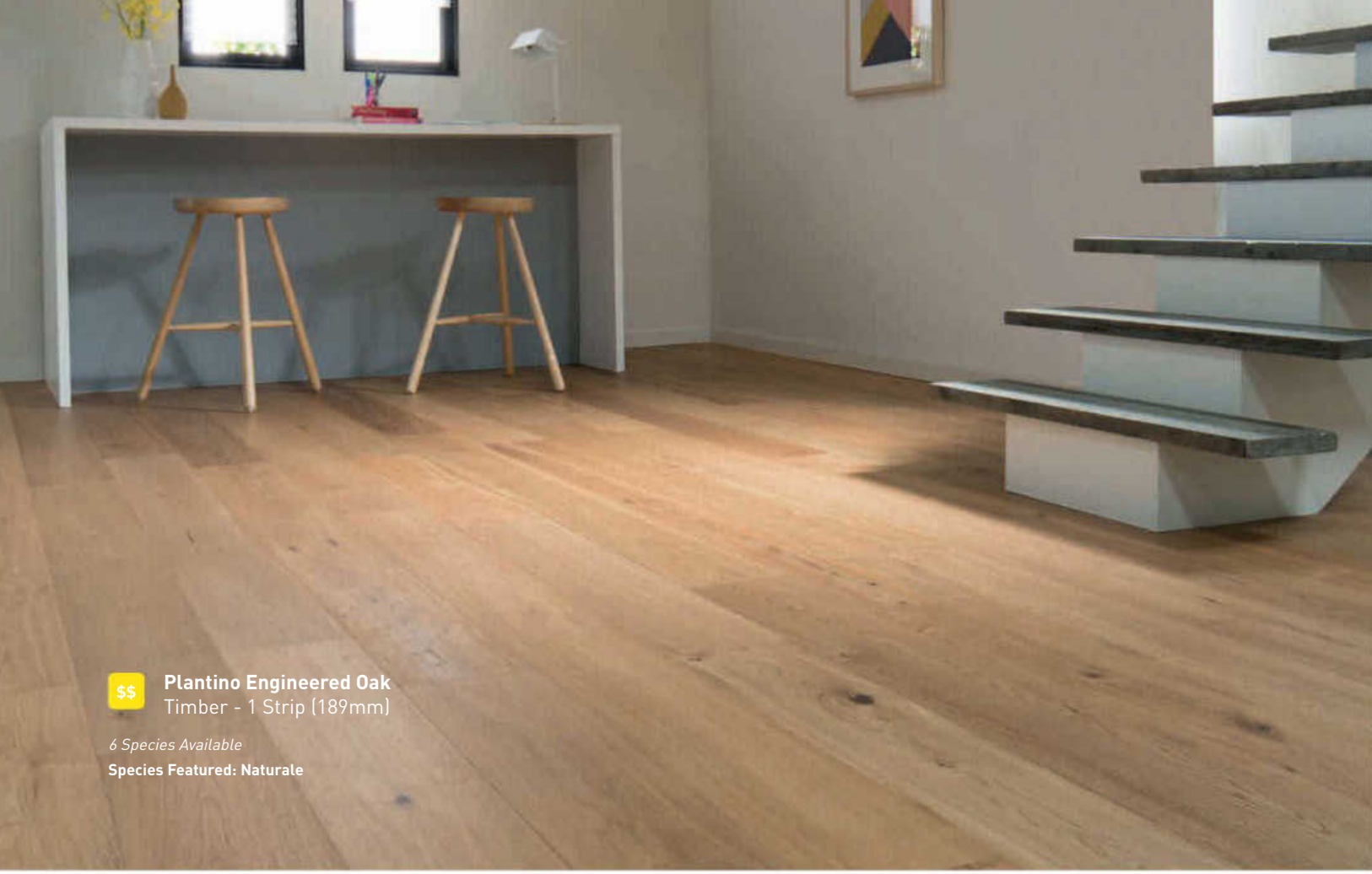
See **page 38** for product details

the LOOK BOOK



1. 3 Drawer Unit with Black Drawer - aerodesigns.com.au **2.** Desk Lamp No.5 - dawanda.com **3.** Paper Clutch Macbook - dawanda.com Case **4.** Ovela Scandinavian Style Study Desk with Light Blue Drawers - kogan.com **5.** Geometry Pencil Cup Desk Set - dawanda.com **6.** Exavier Desk Chair - ecochic.com.au **7.** Floor Lamp Grey and Copper - idyllhome.co.uk **8.** Bookends by Block - cowandco.co.uk **9.** Italian Leather Tan Rucksack - velvetmutineer.com **10.** Corkglobe - top3.com.au **11.** Lapin Chair - sweetpeaandwillow.com **12.** Art Print Omg he said what - papercartel.com **13.** Rogue Hanging Echeveria Pot - albi.com.au

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



$$ **Plantino Engineered Oak**
Timber - 1 Strip (189mm)

6 Species Available
Species Featured: Naturale



$ **Eternity Inception - Lethbridge**
Advanced Technology Polypropylene Textured

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Weston



Plantino Bamboo
Bamboo - 1 Strip

4 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Straw

Habitat Collection - Inscape
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Gunmetal



Eternity - Amento
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

$

11 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Jester



STAINMASTER® EverSoft® - Burrowa
Solution Dyed Nylon Textured

$$

11 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Grevillea



Habitat Collection - Verve
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

$$

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Marcasite



kitchen

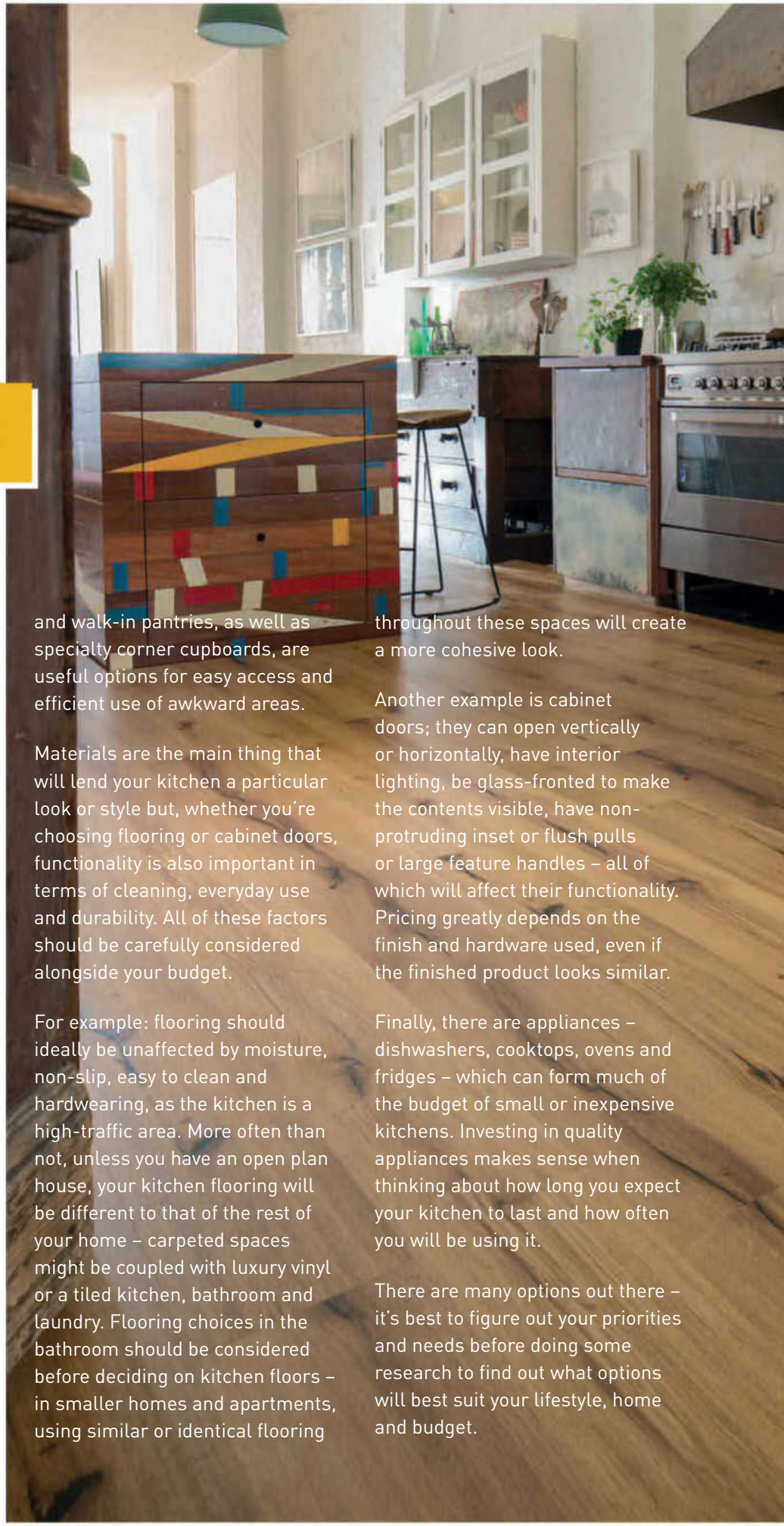
$$$

Plantino Engineered Oak
Timber - 1 Strip Wide Board (240mm)

4 Species Available
Species Featured: Pompeii



Hana Jo
Features and Digital Editor, *homes+*



When it comes to practical spaces that are used every day, the kitchen is a place where function is key.

Whether you're an aspiring gourmet chef or cooking simple meals for your family, everyone wants a dream kitchen that's easy to navigate, has enough storage and looks the part, while fitting in with the style of the rest of the house.

The main considerations are layout, storage, materials and appliances. In regards to layout, the positioning of the cooktop, fridge and sink is very important. They should be placed relatively close together to form a triangle for maximum efficiency – this can be achieved in any style of kitchen.

Then there's storage, which can make or break a kitchen. Make the most of available room and aim to create as much easily accessible space for pantry items and kitchenware as possible. A combination of cupboards, overhead cabinets and drawers are the most common solutions; pull-out and walk-in pantries, as well as specialty corner cupboards, are useful options for easy access and efficient use of awkward areas.

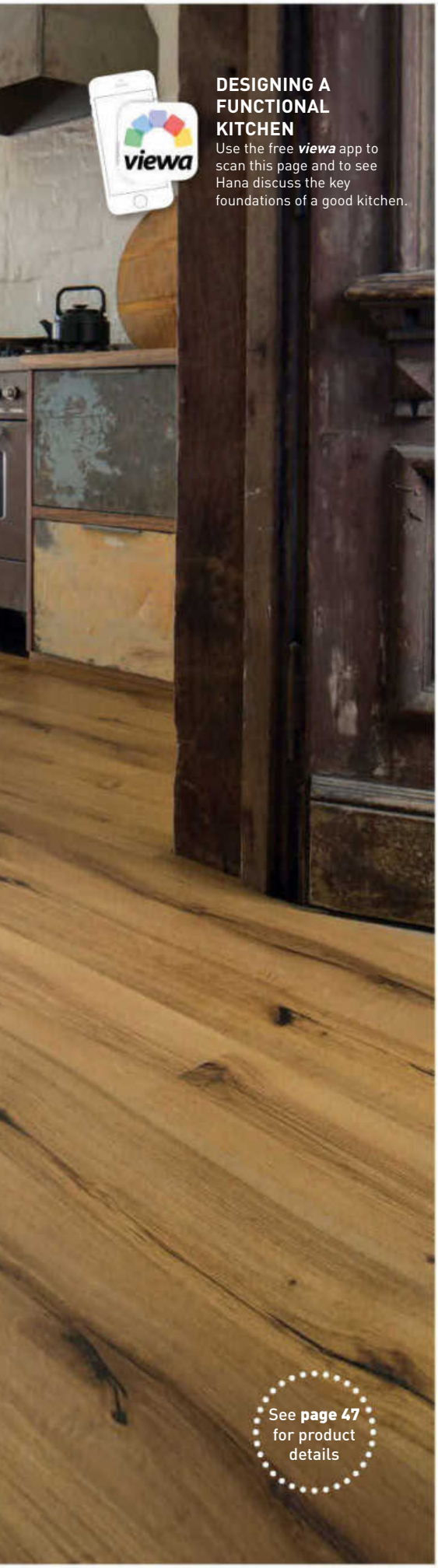
Materials are the main thing that will lend your kitchen a particular look or style but, whether you're choosing flooring or cabinet doors, functionality is also important in terms of cleaning, everyday use and durability. All of these factors should be carefully considered alongside your budget.

For example: flooring should ideally be unaffected by moisture, non-slip, easy to clean and hardwearing, as the kitchen is a high-traffic area. More often than not, unless you have an open plan house, your kitchen flooring will be different to that of the rest of your home – carpeted spaces might be coupled with luxury vinyl or a tiled kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Flooring choices in the bathroom should be considered before deciding on kitchen floors – in smaller homes and apartments, using similar or identical flooring throughout these spaces will create a more cohesive look.

Another example is cabinet doors; they can open vertically or horizontally, have interior lighting, be glass-fronted to make the contents visible, have non-protruding inset or flush pulls or large feature handles – all of which will affect their functionality. Pricing greatly depends on the finish and hardware used, even if the finished product looks similar.

Finally, there are appliances – dishwashers, cooktops, ovens and fridges – which can form much of the budget of small or inexpensive kitchens. Investing in quality appliances makes sense when thinking about how long you expect your kitchen to last and how often you will be using it.

There are many options out there – it's best to figure out your priorities and needs before doing some research to find out what options will best suit your lifestyle, home and budget.



DESIGNING A FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN

Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page and to see Hana discuss the key foundations of a good kitchen.

See **page 47** for product details

the LOOK BOOK


1


2



3


4


5


6


7


9


8


10


11

1. Savora Yellow Stainless Steel Colander - kitchencraft.co.uk **2.** 'Old School' Milk Bottles in Wooden Crate - oakroomshop.co.uk **3.** Kitchen Conversions Chopping Board - tch.net **4.** Sahara Bar Stool - sweetpeaandwillow.com **5.** Guitar Salad Servers - maidenshop.com **6.** La Cafetière Black Classic Espresso Maker - creative-tops.com **7.** Historic Lighting by Maxlume - skinflintdesign.co.uk **8.** Katz & Trope Painted Wine Cube - allianceathome.com.au **9.** Aubrac Bowl & Coffee Mug - cowandco.co.uk **10.** X Tray - in-spaces.com **11.** Modern Danish Large Kitchen Hutch - ghify.com

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



care tip

Use high density felt floor protectors on the underside of furniture to prevent premature wear and scratches to your flooring.

$$$

Plantino Laminate
Laminate - 1 Strip

5 Designs Available
Design Featured: Skip Planed Blackened Natural



Filomena $$$
Tile - Porcelain

400mm x 800mm
Colour Featured: Silver Travertine

Rush $$$
Tile - Porcelain

200mm x 600mm
Colour Featured: Grey



Chez Moi $$$
Wall Tile - Ceramic

180mm x 100mm
Colour Featured: Blue St. Tropez

$$ **The Eclipse Collection - Sardinia**
Tile - Porcelain

600mm x 600mm
Colour Featured: Nero



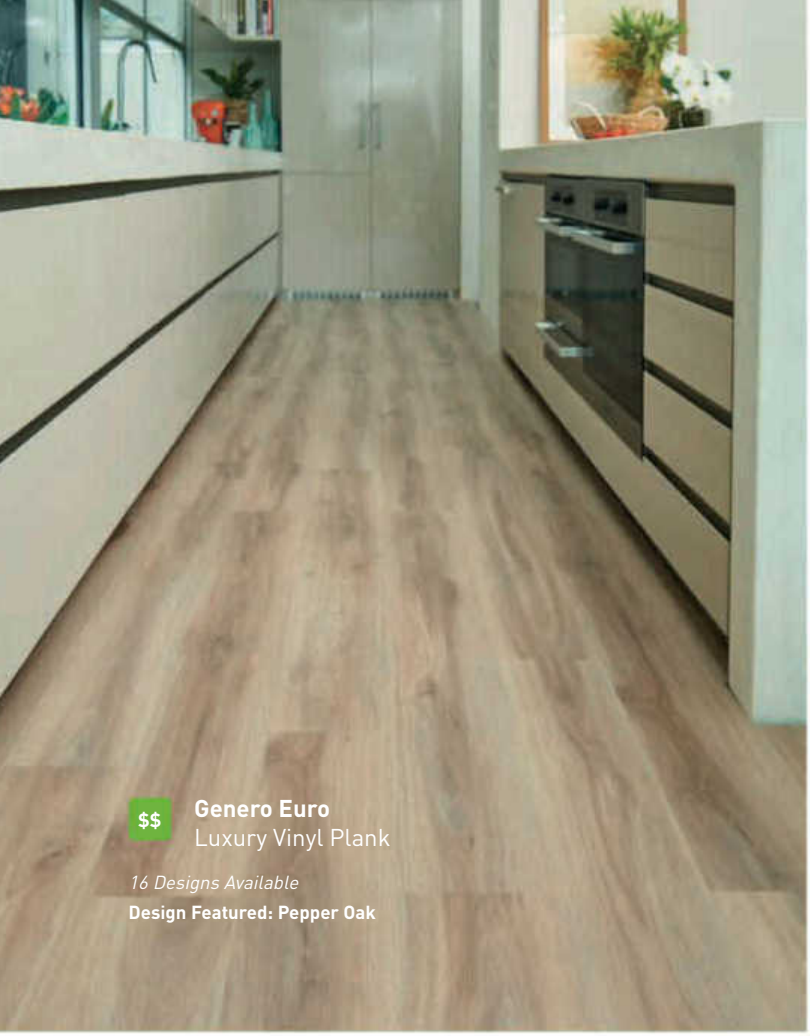
6 Six $$$
Tile - Porcelain

480mm x 480mm
Colours Featured: Nube & White



Plantino Laminate Deluxe $$
Laminate - 1 Strip

6 Designs Available
Design Featured: Broadway



$$ **Genero Euro**
Luxury Vinyl Plank

16 Designs Available
Design Featured: Pepper Oak



Talia $$$
Tile - Porcelain

450mm x 900mm
Colour Featured: Silver



$$$ **Architettura**
Wall Tile - Ceramic

100mm x 100mm
Colours Featured: Bianco & Cobalto

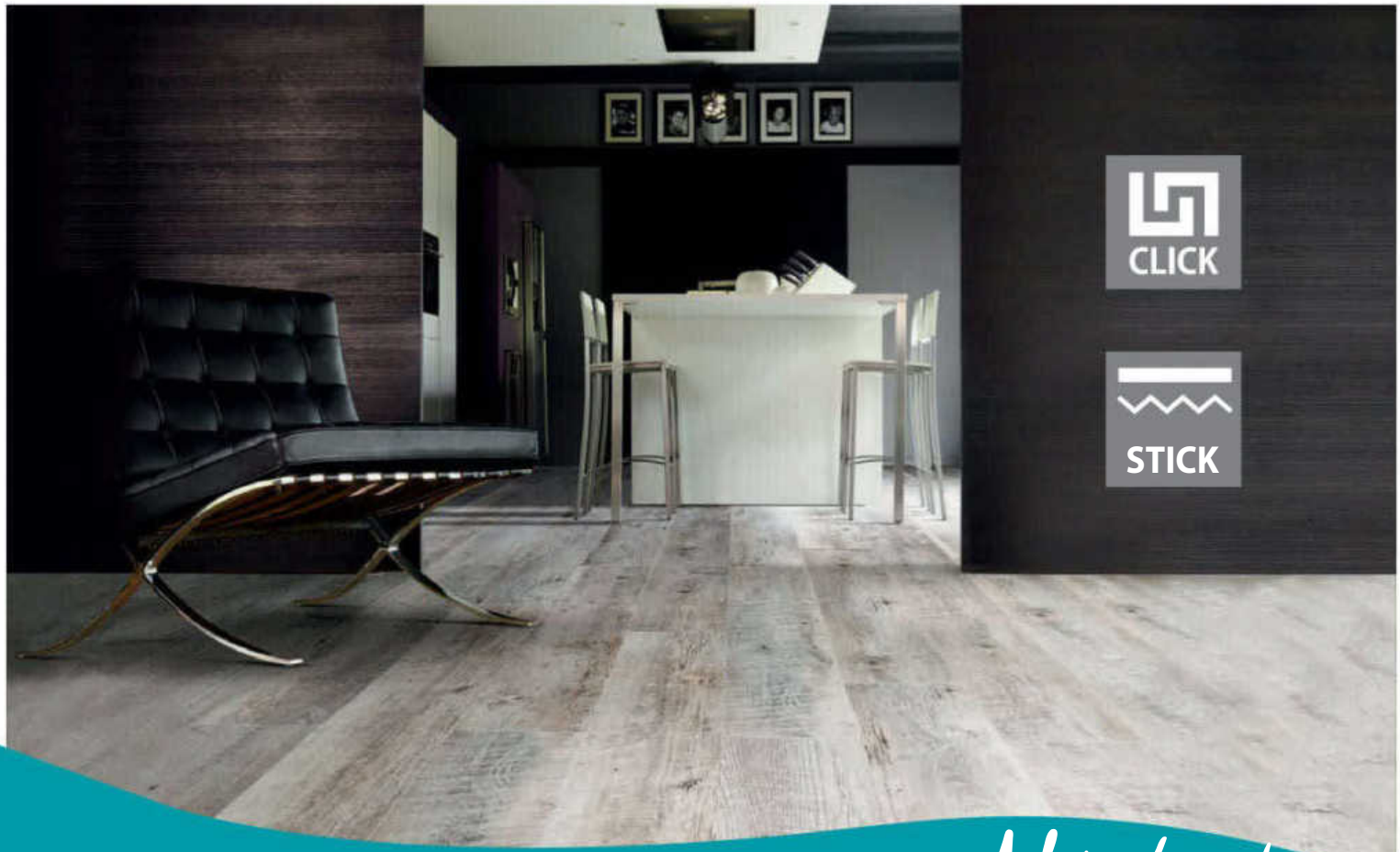


Plantino Engineered Oak $$$
Timber - 1 Strip Wide Board (240mm)

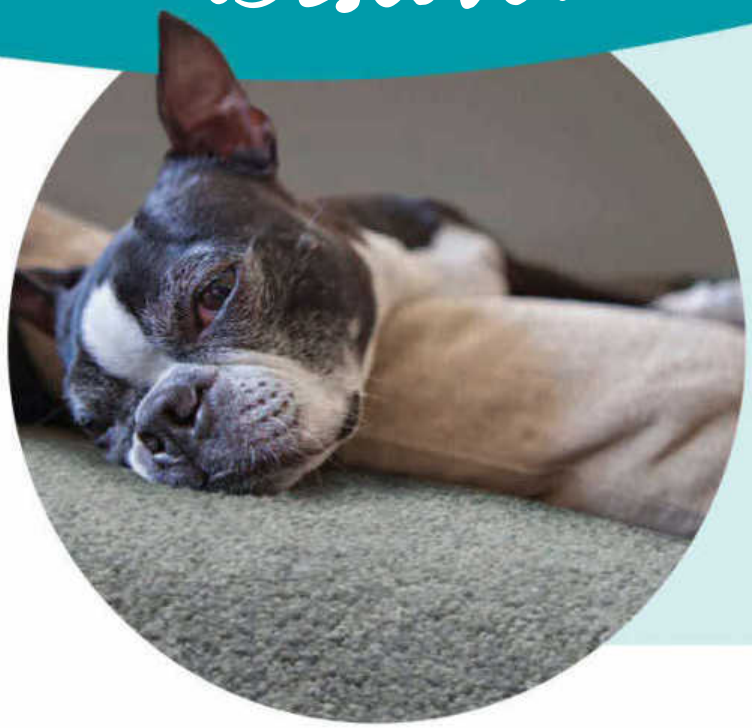
4 Species Available
Species Featured: Messina

Temuka - Langdale $$$
Wool Loop

6 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Fallow



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Genero Euro

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& perfect for all seasons

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your style, your home

Signature™ signaturefloors



dining

See **page 106** for rug details

$$

Genero Euro
Luxury Vinyl Plank

16 Designs Available
Design Featured: Char Oak



Sarah Pickette
Features Editor, *Australian House & Garden*

Long lunches and dinners spent around the dining table are the stuff happy memories are made of.

Whether you have a whole room you can dedicate to dining or an area sectioned within an open-plan layout, the role of this space is the same: it should be practical enough to be used for everyday meals yet versatile enough to be dressed up for special occasions.

Meals inevitably mean spills, especially if children are at the table. So it makes sense to have robust, stain-proof flooring in your dining area. Timber flooring is an excellent choice for this reason. If your budget won't stretch to solid timber, take a look at the engineered timbers on the market today. They're of an outstanding quality and you can rest assured they will never go out of style.

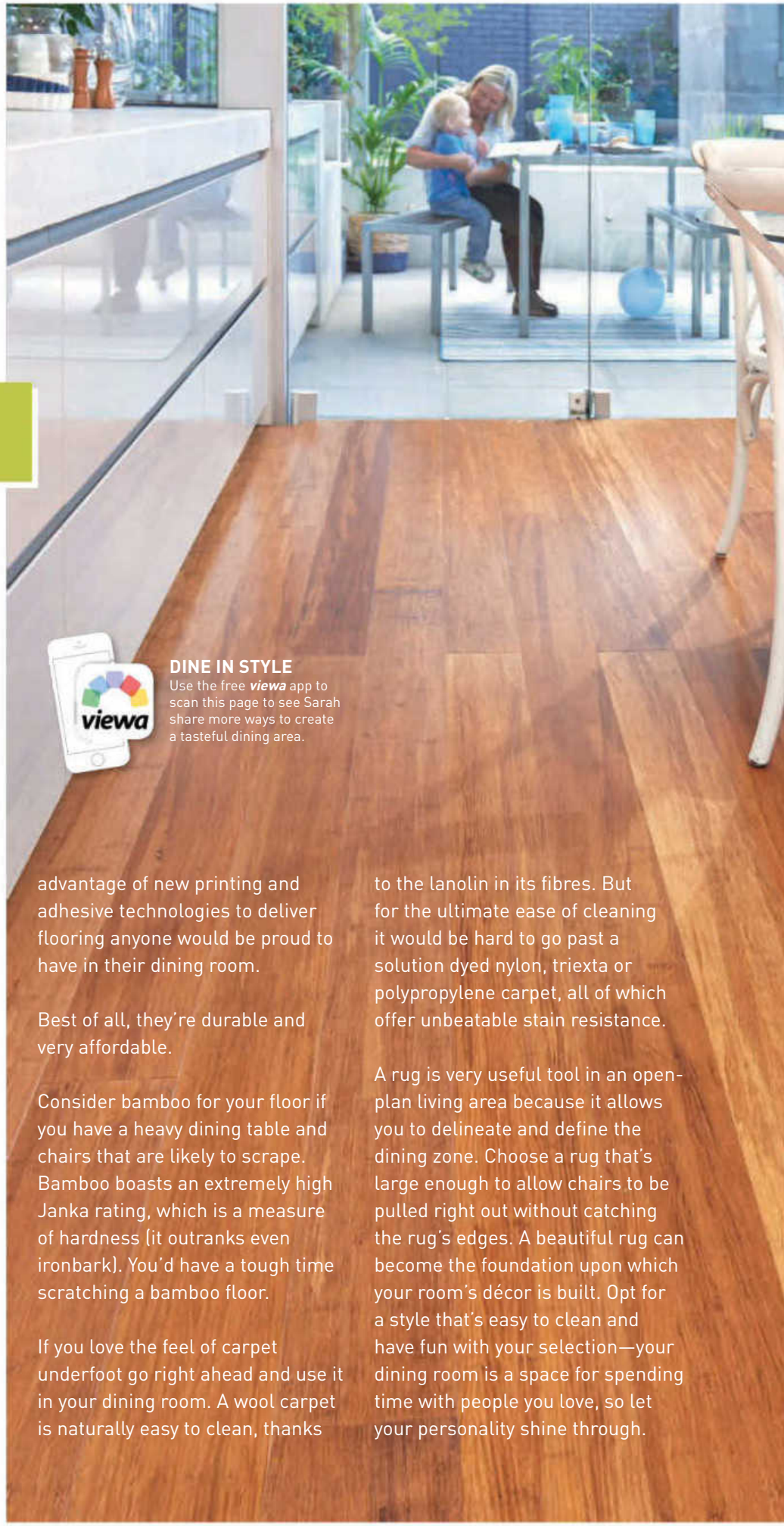
Laminates and luxury vinyls are another great option for dining areas. If you've not considered these products, it's worth a special trip to the showroom to see and touch them. The latest releases take advantage of new printing and adhesive technologies to deliver flooring anyone would be proud to have in their dining room.

Best of all, they're durable and very affordable.

Consider bamboo for your floor if you have a heavy dining table and chairs that are likely to scrape. Bamboo boasts an extremely high Janka rating, which is a measure of hardness (it outranks even ironbark). You'd have a tough time scratching a bamboo floor.

If you love the feel of carpet underfoot go right ahead and use it in your dining room. A wool carpet is naturally easy to clean, thanks to the lanolin in its fibres. But for the ultimate ease of cleaning it would be hard to go past a solution dyed nylon, triexta or polypropylene carpet, all of which offer unbeatable stain resistance.

A rug is very useful tool in an open-plan living area because it allows you to delineate and define the dining zone. Choose a rug that's large enough to allow chairs to be pulled right out without catching the rug's edges. A beautiful rug can become the foundation upon which your room's décor is built. Opt for a style that's easy to clean and have fun with your selection—your dining room is a space for spending time with people you love, so let your personality shine through.



DINE IN STYLE
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to see Sarah share more ways to create a tasteful dining area.



See **page 58** for product details

the LOOK BOOK


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1. Circa Planter - utedesign.com.au **2.** Large Green Lampshade - fermoie.com **3.** Mikasa Into the Blue ceramic Trivet - fermoie.com **4.** Marseille Round Dining Table - sweetpeaandwillow.com **5.** French Provincial Table - vavoom.com.au **6.** Satara Blue Canisters - satara.com.au **7.** Aveva Wool Felt Trivet - top3.com.au **8.** Woodcroft Cross Back Dining Chair - sweetpeaandwillow.com **9.** 4 Bowls by La Petite Fabrique De Brunswick - designersmakers.com **10.** Madrid Chair in Green by CADA Design - designbotschaft.com **11.** Arak Dining Table - zanui.com.au **12.** Davis & Waddell Essentials Salt/Pepper Mill Ceramic Mechanism - davisandwaddell.com.au

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



$$$ **Brintons - Timorous Beasties**
Wool Blend Woven

12 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Platinum Grain du Bois



$$$ **Habitat**
Tile - Porcelain

750mm x 750mm
Colour Featured: Cement



Plantino Engineered Oak
Timber - 1 Strip (189mm)

$$

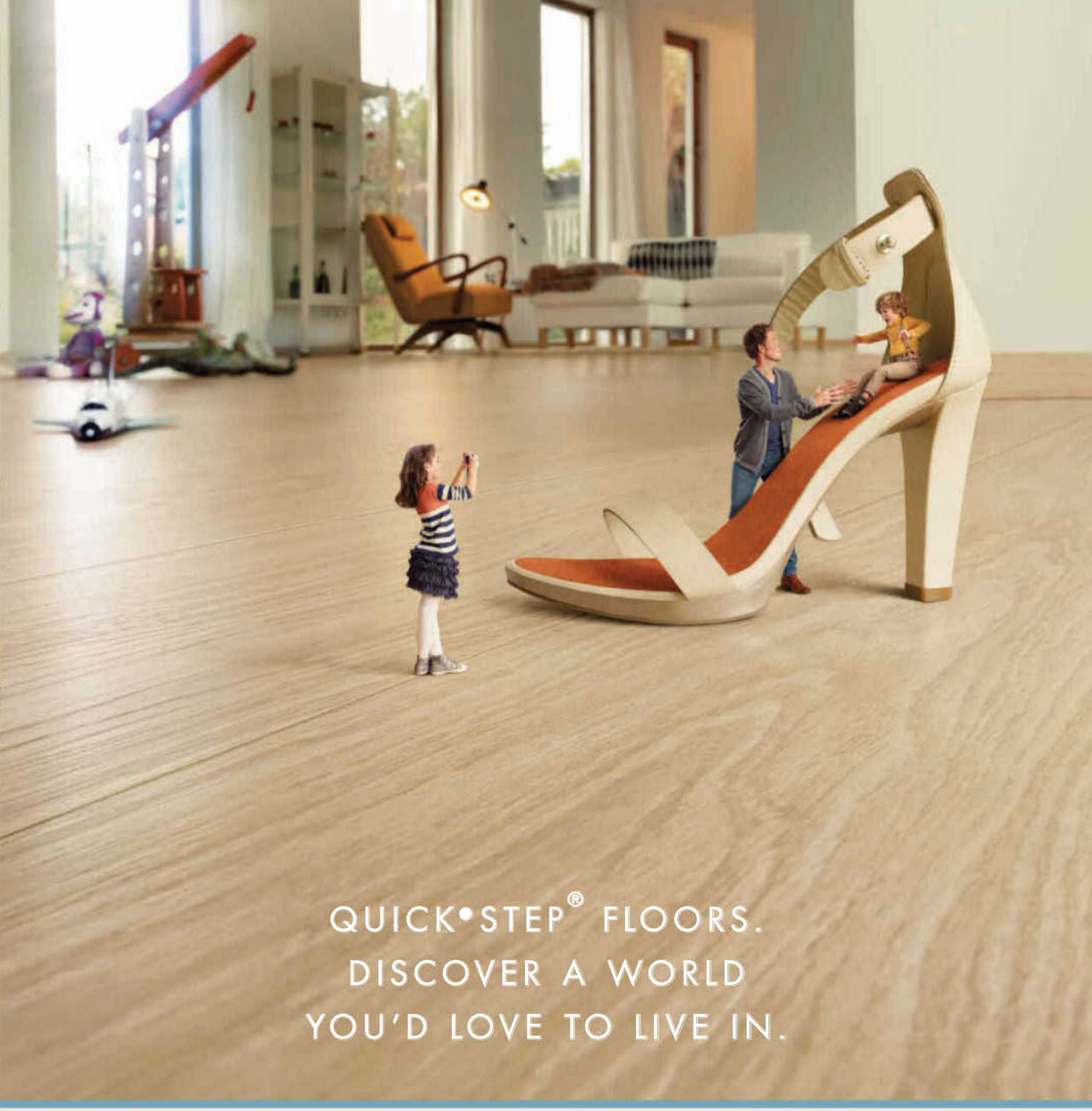
6 Species Available
Species Featured: Cremona



$$$

Quick•Step® Impressive Ultra
Laminate - 1 Strip

6 Designs Available
Design Featured: Soft Oak Natural



Quick•Step® LAMINATE guarantees carefree living pleasure. Did you know that Quick•Step® laminate floors are ten times more scratch-resistant thanks to the Scratch Guard technology? Their unrivalled designs are also extremely stylish. Be inspired and find out what our **laminate, timber, bamboo and vinyl** floors could do for your interior at **www.quick-step.com.au**

QUICK·STEP®
FLOOR DESIGNERS



$$ **Knight Tile**
Luxury Vinyl Tile

12 Designs Available
Design Featured: Orkney



$$$ **Genero Looselay**
Luxury Vinyl Plank - Wide Board (229mm)

11 Designs Available
Design Featured: Mountain Oak



care tip

Heading on holidays? Prevent shrinkage in bamboo floors by filling the sink with water to maintain relative humidity.

Plantino Bamboo $
Bamboo - 1 Strip

4 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Driftwood



Plantino Laminate Deluxe $$
Laminate - 1 Strip

6 Designs Available
Design Featured: Tribeca

HERE'S HOW TO *find the floor* YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR

After being inspired to change your space and deciding on the look you'd like to achieve, we understand there's still a lot to consider. So when it comes to flooring we've broken it down into five simple steps, to help you find the floor you've been searching for.



STEP 1 THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFESTYLE AND WHAT YOU NEED FROM YOUR FLOORING

Whether you have kids and/or pets or just want flooring for an investment or rental property, these factors can determine your selection based on durability, price, and style.

STEP 2 SELECT THE TYPE AND STYLE OF FLOORING YOU WOULD LIKE

Keeping the look you want to achieve in mind, view our flooring options in your local Choices Flooring store or at **choicesflooring.com.au.**



Carpet
Twist, Textured, Loop, Plush



Hard Flooring
Timber, Bamboo, Laminate: 1 Strip, 2 Strip, 3 Strip and Multistrip



Luxury Vinyl
Plank, Tile, Sheet



Tiles
Polished, Matt, Lappato, Gloss, External



Your local Choices Flooring consultant will be able to assist you in selecting the flooring type that best suits your lifestyle.

STEP 3 SELECT YOUR COLOUR TONE

As the colour of your new flooring will tie your look together, here are a few questions to keep in mind when selecting your colour tone:

What feeling do you want to create in your space?

What is the hero of your space?

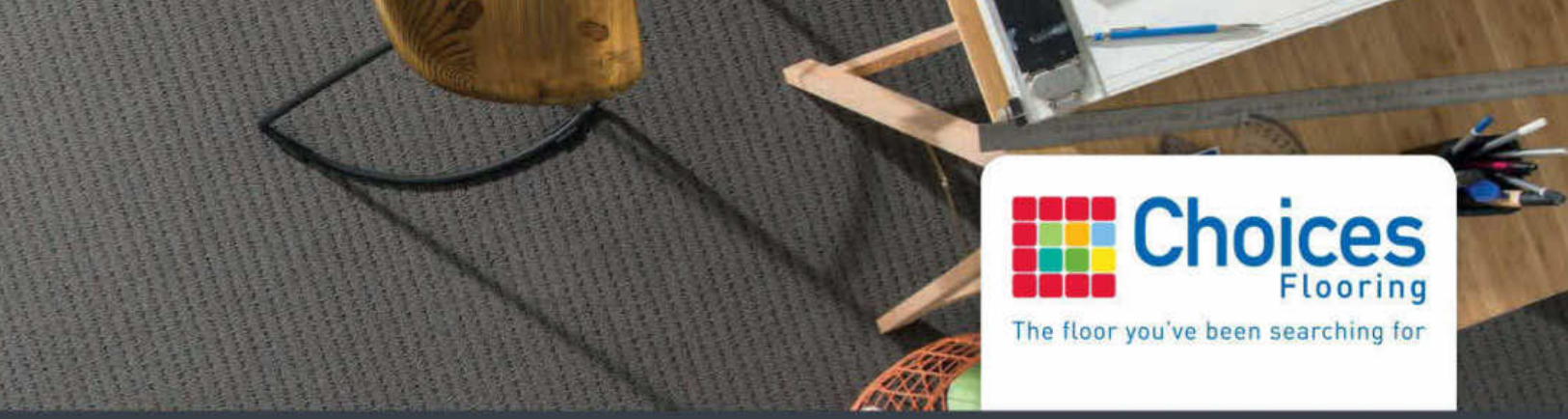
What other colours will be in your space? Do you have a colour scheme in mind?

As most Choices Flooring consultants are trained in interior decoration, they understand colour and can assist you in narrowing down your options.

Once you have your final colour selections, borrow samples from your local Choices Flooring store and place these in your space. View these samples at different times of the day, so you have a good understanding of how light affects each colour tone.

This knowledge will assist you in being confident with your final flooring decision.





Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for

STEP 4 DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE FLOORING YOU NEED

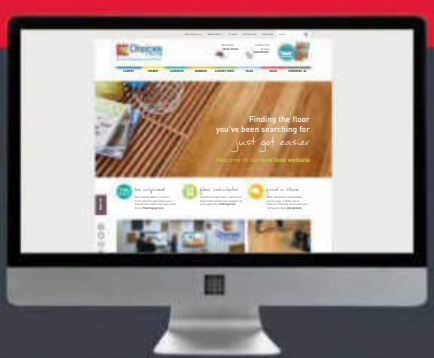
- **Entrance & Hallway**
- **Living**
- **Home Office**
- **Kitchen**
- **Dining**
- **Master**
- **Bathroom & Laundry**
- **Bedroom**
- **Playroom**

WHAT NEXT?

Your local Choices Flooring consultant will work with you to finalise the details of your installation or product delivery.

Need more inspiration?

Visit **choicesflooring.com.au** - from our flooring gallery to decorating style file blogs, product information and your local Choices Flooring store details, you'll have it all at your fingertips.



STEP 5 DETERMINE HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO INVEST ON YOUR FLOORING PURCHASE

As a general rule, pricing for flooring is displayed and quoted in square metres (m^2).

Some carpet pricing includes installation, whereas hard flooring, luxury vinyl and tiles do not.

If you know the number of square metres required for your home and have decided on an approximate price you would like to pay per square metre then you can then determine the cost:
Example: 75 square metres at $50m² = $3,750

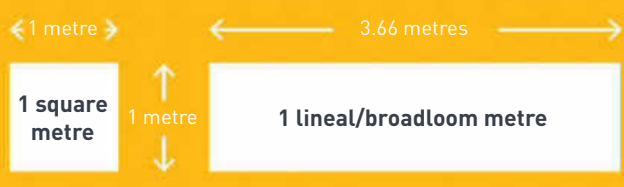


Flooring measurements explained

Hard flooring (timber, bamboo, laminate), luxury vinyl and tiles are priced in square metres (sqm) but sold by the carton. These prices do not include sub-floor preparation or installation.

Carpet can only be bought in lineal/broadloom metres which is generally 3.66 or 4 metres wide (e.g. 1 lineal/broadloom metre = 3.66 metres). However, as hard flooring, luxury vinyl and tiles are priced in square metres, carpet prices are generally converted to square metres so a comparison can be made between all flooring options.

Some Choices Flooring stores include installation and other extra services in their carpet pricing, whereas hard flooring, luxury vinyl and tiles do not. Your local Choices Flooring consultant will clarify this for you.





Habitat Collection - Verve $$
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Java



$$ **Quick•Step® ARC Bamboo**
Bamboo - 1 Strip

11 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Ceruse



master

$$

Windsor Wool - Lake Como
Wool Twist

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Mezzo

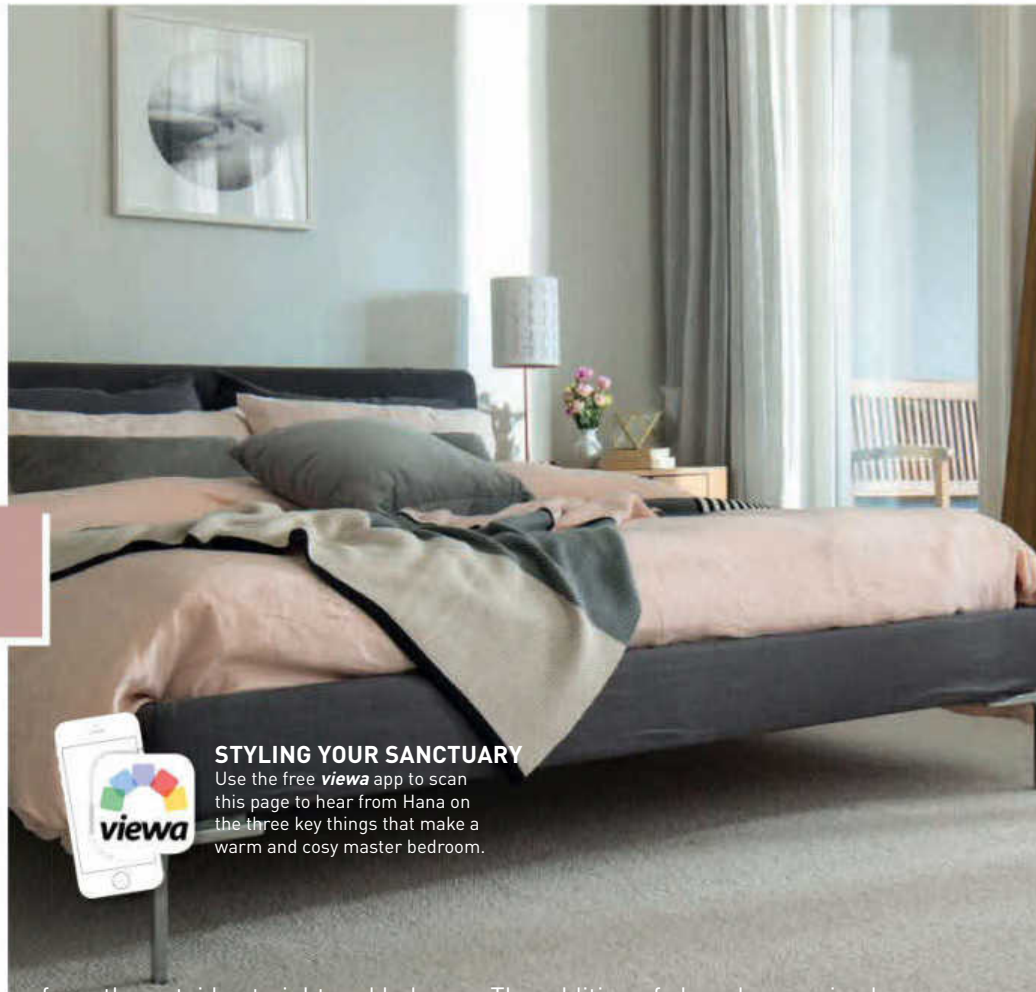


Hana Jo
Features and Digital Editor, *homes+*

Styling your master bedroom involves a lot of thought regarding the aesthetics and comfort factor of your space.

It's a room where you will want to create a relaxing atmosphere that's conducive to sleep while having enough storage and sufficient control over light and temperature to make the room as comfortable and clutter-free as possible.

Creating a relaxing atmosphere has a lot to do with colour and light. Stick with soft neutrals for things like walls, furniture and flooring – other colourful styling elements can be added to this, making it easy to change or create a new look with bedlinen or soft furnishings. Darker colours might create a moody and inviting atmosphere for sleeping, but can also make a room feel smaller and will absorb the available light in the space. White and light colours will generally make a room seem larger and brighter – mirrors, good lighting and less clutter will also help. As well as choosing a relaxing colour scheme, consider block-out curtains or blinds to minimise light from the outside at night and help with insulation. Investing in quality sheets and bedding and a mattress that suits your body and sleeping habits will also make a world of difference.



STYLING YOUR SANCTUARY
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to hear from Hana on the three key things that make a warm and cosy master bedroom.

Comfort goes hand in hand with relaxation, and flooring is a good place to start. Soft flooring or rugs will improve sound absorption and will make the room warmer – in appearance and temperature – making it just that little bit easier to get out of bed in the morning!

When it comes to an ensuite, attention to detail can often be the difference between a good or great master bedroom. Having a quiet ventilation fan, a flush transition between the flooring in the bedroom and ensuite and a door that minimises sound and light leakage will make the room an even better place to rest.

The addition of cleverly organised drawers, shelves and hanging rails will make the most of whatever wardrobe space is available. Full-height wardrobes can create more storage room for items that don't need to be accessed every day. For smaller rooms, sliding doors are a clever space-saving option.

If there's any room to spare, take advantage of it and make the master bedroom a dual-use space. You could create a dressing or make-up area with a stool and a small console or a reading nook with an armchair and side table.

The master bedroom is used every day to rest, relax and recharge. Put comfort, mood and preventing clutter at the top of the list in order to make it the calming haven it should be.



See **page 74** for product details

the LOOK BOOK

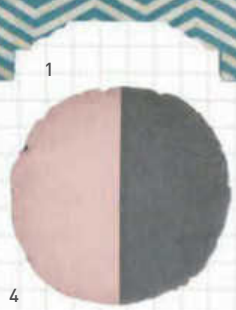


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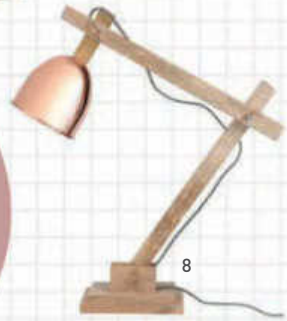
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1. Chevron Bone Inlay Bedside Table - zohiinteriors.com.au **2.** Hug Art Print by Chloe Ruby - endemicworld.com **3.** Bergere Armchair - sweetpeaandwillow.com **4.** Circular Leather and Linen Cushion - downthatlittlelane.com.au **5.** Orient Cushion - eagle-products.de **6.** Green Tea and Lemon Soy Scented Candle - etsy.com **7.** Pia Wallen Grey and White Cross Blanket - norsu.com.au **8.** Zoe Table Lamp In Copper - zohiinteriors.com.au **9.** Oak and Linen Bench/Ottoman - lavenderhillinteriors.com.au **10.** Maidstone Mirror - sweetpeaandwillow.com **11.** Barrel Taper Holder - in-spaces.com **12.** Canningvale Hastings Quilt Cover Set - canningvale.com **13.** Grey & Mother Of Pearl Inlay 7 Drawer Chest Of Drawers Zohi Interiors - zohiinteriors.com.au

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for





See **page 106** for rug details

$$$ **Temuka - Coronet**
Wool Twist

24 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Wyndham

Genero Looselay $$$
Luxury Vinyl Plank - Wide Board (229mm)

11 Designs Available
Design Featured: Golden Oak



“To add the finishing touches to your space on almost no budget, go foraging in nature. Depending where you live, there are all sorts of things on offer from pinecones to flowers and foliage. And don't worry about buying a vase, have a rummage through your recycling bin instead. You're bound to find a lovely old glass jar or perhaps some aluminium cans, which come up great with a coat of paint.”

Tahn Scoon
tahnscoon.com.au

Temuka - Coronet $$$
Wool Twist

24 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Kaikohe



Are you looking for the Softest, Most Durable, and Easy to Clean carpet on the planet?

Then look no further than the two new exclusive triexta carpet ranges to Choices Flooring – Serenity Elysium or the even more luxurious Serenity Utopia.

Perfect for families with children and pets, the exclusive Serenity triexta carpet ranges feature new DualShield Protection technology for quick and easy clean ups. It is also the only carpet with permanent built-in stain and soil protection that won't wear or wash off. Their specially engineered soft fibres make Serenity Elysium and Utopia the world's toughest and softest carpet.

With a variety of fashionable colours to choose from, you're sure to find the design you like in a carpet that's built to last.

To find out more about Serenity Elysium and Utopia, visit **choicesflooring.com.au**

Serenity elysium

Serenity utopia

MANUFACTURED BY MOHAWK

EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT Choices Flooring

The floor you've been searching for



Chez Moi $$$
Wall Tile - Ceramic

180mm x 100mm
Colour Featured: Blanc

Plantino Engineered Oak $$
Timber - 1 Strip (189mm)

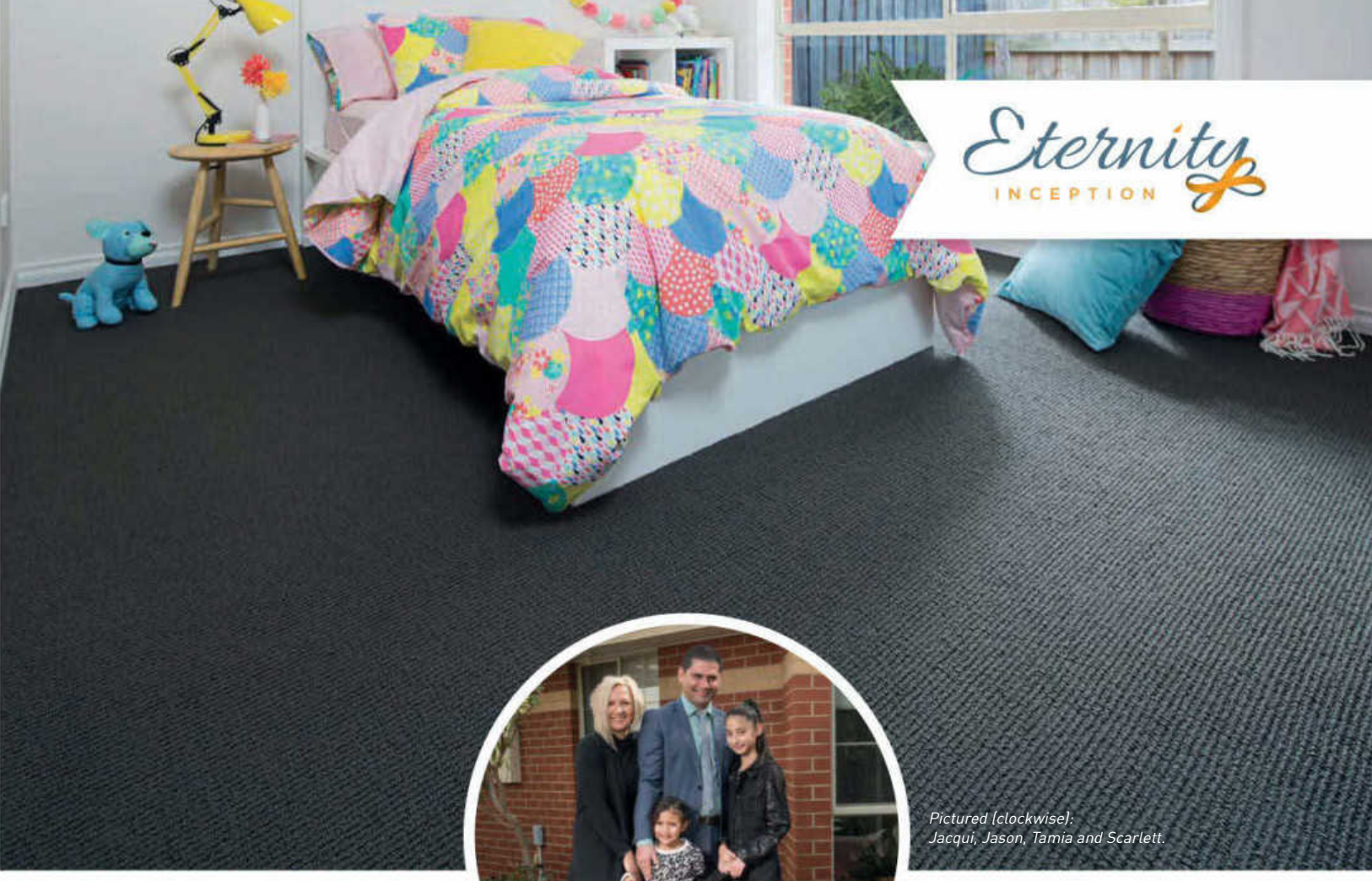
6 Species Available
Species Featured: Siena



Victoria Carpets

Fine carpets since 1895

Fortino *colour featured Omega*



Pictured (clockwise): Jacqui, Jason, Tamia and Scarlett.

FOR LOOKS THAT LAST

Finishing some minor renovations to their investment property (which happened to be their first home until their family grew too big for the small unit); one of the projects on Jacqui and Jason's list was to replace the carpet in the bedrooms.

After visiting a number of different flooring retailers, Jacqui fell in love with the stylish looks and luxurious feel of Eternity Inception carpet, as well as being blown away by the exceptional service provided to her by her local Choices Flooring store.

Admitting that she'd like to have Eternity Inception carpet in her own home, the many benefits of Eternity Inception carpet and the exceptional service Jacqui received saw the local Choices Flooring team decorate Jacqui and Jason's unit with Eternity Inception carpet, instantly updating the look of the bedrooms for their new tenants to enjoy.





Patrick $$
Tile - Ceramic

450mm x 450mm
Colour Featured: Charcoal

Hardwood Plus G5 $$$
Timber - 1 Strip

12 Species Available
Species Featured: Blackbutt



care tip

To encourage even wear, rotate your rug once a year.

See **page 106** for rug details

Genero Looselay $$$
Luxury Vinyl Plank - Wide Board (229mm)

11 Designs Available
Design Featured: Maple Oak



$$$ **Temuka - Bayton**
Wool Loop

8 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Dimity



Quick•Step® Impressive Ultra $$$
Laminate - 1 Strip

6 Designs Available
Design Featured: Classic Oak Brown



bathroom & laundry

The Eclipse Collection - Regal $$
Tile - Porcelain

300mm x 600mm
Colour Featured: Vanilla

$ **The Eclipse Collection - Appian Brezza**
Tile - Ceramic

450mm x 450mm
Colour Featured: Moonlight



Sarah Pickette
Features Editor, *Australian House & Garden*

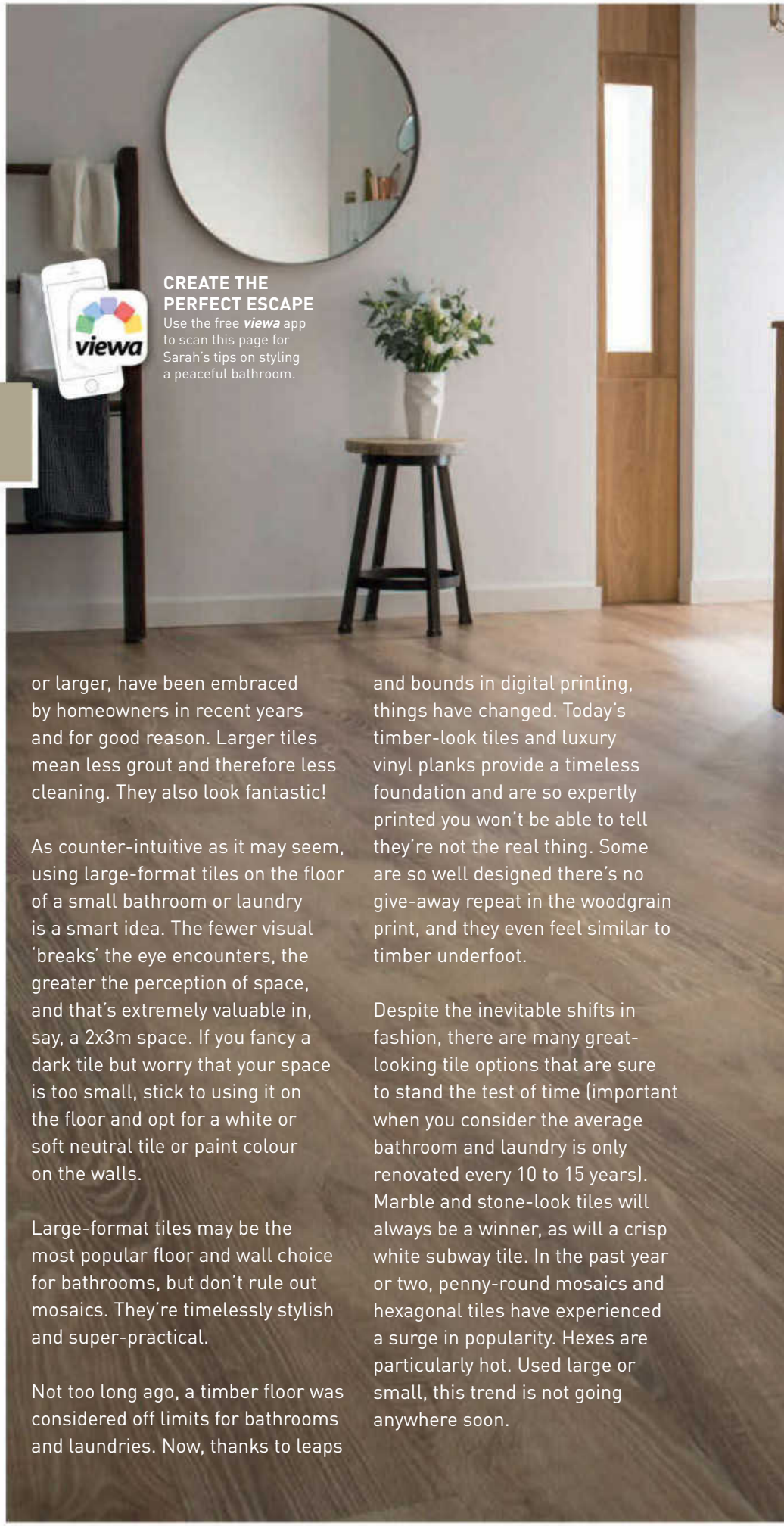
Today's bathroom is more than a mere functional space. It's a room you can retreat to, a place of quiet sanctuary in an increasingly noisy world.

A great bathroom is easy to maintain, has enough storage for everything you need, includes good-quality fixtures and feels luxurious to use.

The bathroom and laundry are spaces that always benefit from being designed from the floor up. Practicality takes top billing when it comes to decisions about your bathroom and laundry floor. Tiles, because of their ability to stand up to splashes and moisture, are clearly the best choice for bathrooms and laundries (though they're not the only option).

Laundries sometimes suffer the fate of being overlooked, but they can be just as stylish as any other room in the house.

The tiles you select for your floor can provide the perfect launching point for the rest of your design. Large-format tiles, typically 300x600mm or larger, have been embraced by homeowners in recent years and for good reason. Larger tiles mean less grout and therefore less cleaning. They also look fantastic!



CREATE THE PERFECT ESCAPE
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page for Sarah's tips on styling a peaceful bathroom.

As counter-intuitive as it may seem, using large-format tiles on the floor of a small bathroom or laundry is a smart idea. The fewer visual 'breaks' the eye encounters, the greater the perception of space, and that's extremely valuable in, say, a 2x3m space. If you fancy a dark tile but worry that your space is too small, stick to using it on the floor and opt for a white or soft neutral tile or paint colour on the walls.

Large-format tiles may be the most popular floor and wall choice for bathrooms, but don't rule out mosaics. They're timelessly stylish and super-practical.

Not too long ago, a timber floor was considered off limits for bathrooms and laundries. Now, thanks to leaps and bounds in digital printing, things have changed. Today's timber-look tiles and luxury vinyl planks provide a timeless foundation and are so expertly printed you won't be able to tell they're not the real thing. Some are so well designed there's no give-away repeat in the woodgrain print, and they even feel similar to timber underfoot.

Despite the inevitable shifts in fashion, there are many great-looking tile options that are sure to stand the test of time (important when you consider the average bathroom and laundry is only renovated every 10 to 15 years). Marble and stone-look tiles will always be a winner, as will a crisp white subway tile. In the past year or two, penny-round mosaics and hexagonal tiles have experienced a surge in popularity. Hexes are particularly hot. Used large or small, this trend is not going anywhere soon.



See **page 81** for product details

the LOOK BOOK



1. Copper Wire Pendant - miafleur.com **2.** Flinders Black Baskets - satara.com.au **3.** Rustic Timber Wooden Towel Ladder - lifestylehomeandliving.com.au **4.** 'The Joys of Laundry' Laundry Bag - tch.net **5.** Copper Soap Dispenser - zanui.com.au **6.** Izola Apothecary Soap Dish - henrytibbs.com **7.** Bronze Wash Basin Ovum - dekodesign.se **8.** Copper Succulent Hexagonal Set - etsy.com **9.** Copper Hexagonal Mirror - miafleur.com **10.** Calypso Copper Stool Small - downthatlittlelane.com.au **11.** Eternity Toilet Towel - ksl-living.fr **12.** The Essential Oil Burner by Page Thirty Three - top3.com.au **13.** Zakkia Dot Vase White - zakkia.com.au **14.** Menu Bath Pedal Bin (Black) - stemonline.com.au

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



$$ **Genero Design Platinum**
Luxury Vinyl Plank

8 Designs Available
Design Featured: Weathered Oak

$$$ **ALP Stone**
Tile - Porcelain

450mm x 900mm
Colour Featured: Almond

cleaning tip

For tile grout, create a paste from baking soda and water, leave for a couple of minutes then rinse with water and dry with paper towels.



White Gloss
Wall Tile - Ceramic

200mm x 400mm
Colour Featured: White

Genero Euro
Luxury Vinyl Plank

16 Designs Available
Design Featured: Arctic Oak

$$$ **Tresor Argent**
Wall Tile - Ceramic

350mm x 350mm
Colour Featured: Metallic

$$$ **Kermos**
Tile - Porcelain

398mm x 345mm
Colours Featured: Attica & Light

$$$ **Kermos**
Tile - Porcelain

600mm x 600mm
Colour Featured: Sparta

Classic Series $$
Tile - Porcelain

600mm x 600mm
Colour Featured: Crystal Super White



The Eclipse Collection - Seda $
Wall Tile - Ceramic

100mm x 300mm
Colour Featured: White

Genero Design Platinum $$
Luxury Vinyl Plank

8 Designs Available
Design Featured: Rose Birch



VAN GOGH COLLECTION
by Karndean

Our popular Van Gogh collection captures the look of real timber in a variety of colours and designs from cool contemporary to the rustic and reclaimed look. Large planks, distinctive grain details and a subtle texture create a style that works in any space.



Reclaimed Redwood VGW99T

www.karndean.com



Da Vinci Woodplank Collection $$$
Luxury Vinyl Plank

13 Designs Available
Design Featured: Canadian Maple



Carpet that cleans with just cold water

- No Need For Chemicals
- Fast & Easy Clean
- Softness & Durability
- Pet Protection



With Godfrey Hirst eco+® carpet, all you need is cold water to remove the most stubborn household spills like red wine and cordial.* With no need for chemicals, cleaning your carpet has never been easier.

Put this quality Australian Made carpet to the test at your local retailer today.

www.ecopluscarpet.com.au

Cleans with just cold water

*Refer to the online Godfrey Hirst eco+ carpet maintenance and guarantees booklet for full information.



bedroom

$$

eco+ - Autumn Retreat
Triexta Twist

10 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Paradise Pink



Karlie Verkerk
Features Writer and Subeditor, *Real Living*

MAKE THE MOST OF A SPARE ROOM
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page and discover practical ways to style a second bedroom.

Secondary bedrooms can encompass anything from guest bedrooms to dual-purpose rooms and kids bedrooms, or even just a glorified storage space.

But if you're clever about it and give the space as much love as the rest of your home, these rooms can meet all of your needs and more.

When you have guests stay, you want to ensure that they are comfortable, so it's best to keep the style of the furniture simple and uncluttered but not bare – think of what you'd like to see in a hotel room. A cosy bed, two bedside tables and somewhere for your guests to hang their clothes or pop their suitcase is sufficient.

Bedside lamps are also an important inclusion so your guests don't have to search for a light switch in the middle of the night, and long rugs either side of the bed will help to create extra warmth. As the room is used only occasionally, you can be a bit more dramatic when it comes to decorating – try a bold colour scheme or some patterned wallpaper for something a bit more fun.

For kids, their bedroom is a place to rest but also to play and maybe even study. If the space is big enough, include a desk to encourage homework and creative time. But if space is limited, a loft bed that has a desk underneath is a clever way to include both without losing floor space. Large tubs or baskets that can slide easily underneath the bed are perfect for stashing toys and extra bedlinen, while wall-mounted hooks turn school bags and hats into a tidy display. To keep maintenance at a minimum, choose a forgiving flooring option such as timber, laminate, luxury vinyl or dark-coloured carpet.

If you have a spare room that has ended up as a dumping zone, clean out the clutter and turn it into a dual-use space. For example, it can be used as a home office, extra guest bedroom and storage space all-in-one – all you need is some practical multipurpose pieces. A casual-style sofa bed can be easily transformed into a guest bed, and a console, even one with a drawer, can be used as a side table or a work desk by adding a chair. Floor-to-ceiling cupboards provide extra storage space to hide those items that are rarely used – you could even install a small built-in desk with a stool stored underneath to create an impromptu work station. Another storage solution is to pick furniture that has a hidden compartment, such as an ottoman or stool with a removable seat.

Whatever you're using your secondary bedrooms for, a bit of planning and consideration before you decorate will ensure they are user-friendly rooms that maximise the space you have available.



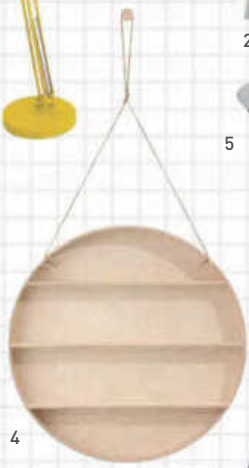
See **page 92** for product details

the LOOK BOOK


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1. Archer 1LT Floor Lamp Yellow - beaconlighting.com.au **2.** Louise Roe Tiles black and White Bed Linen - norsu.com.au **3.** Bonne Course Vintage Picture - sweetpeaandwillow.com **4.** The Round Dorm by Ferm Living - letliv.co.nz **5.** White Wire Sidetable - designbotschaft.com **6.** Set of 3 Large Bottles/Vases - satara.com.au **7.** Callum Throw - zanui.com.au **8.** Oatmeal with Mint & Gold Triangles Cushion Cover - hardtofind.com.au **9.** Mr J Mirror - allianceathome.com.au **10.** Haymarket No. 47 - mylands.co.uk **11.** Geometric Chair - zimba.com.au

Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for



SOFTNESS *that* LASTS

STAINMASTER® EverSoft® SDN carpet is specially formulated to ensure your carpet will stay looking soft and luxurious for years.

Thanks to specially formulated stain blocking technology, food and drink spills can be easily cleaned up in no time at all on a STAINMASTER® EverSoft® SDN carpet. As well, soil resistance technology limits the ability of dry-soil to stick to the carpet fibre – ensuring the outside world stays outside and not stuck to your carpet.

Available in an exciting range of colours, patterns, textures and styles, it's time to take a closer look at long-lasting softness. For carpet designed for the way you live, visit stainmaster.com.au/eversoft or call 1800 335 624.

STAINMASTER®
EverSoft® SDN carpet

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STAINMASTER® EverSoft® - Buchan $$
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

14 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Limestone



Introducing

Serenity arcadia & eden

Perfect for families with children and pets, the two new exclusive triexta carpet ranges to Choices Flooring - Serenity Arcadia or the even more luxurious Serenity Eden - feature new DualShield Protection technology for quick and easy clean ups. It is also the only carpet with permanent built-in stain and soil protection that won't wear or wash off. And being triexta they offer a luxurious softness that you can sink your toes into.

With a variety of contemporary colours to choose from, you're sure to find the design you like in a carpet that's built to last.

To find out more about Serenity Arcadia and Eden, visit **choicesflooring.com.au**

Serenity arcadia

Serenity eden

MANUFACTURED BY MOHAWK

EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT Choices Flooring
The floor you've been searching for

Plantino Laminate $$$
Laminate - 1 Strip

5 Designs Available
Design Featured: Saw Mark Oak Saddle



Brease - Notus $$
Solution Dyed Nylon Twist

10 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Caramba



See **page 106** for rug details



STAINMASTER® TruSoft® - Circa $$$
Nylon Plush

12 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Timeline



Eternity Inception - Barker $$
Advanced Technology Polypropylene Twist

9 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Warrawee

$$ **Plantino Laminate Deluxe**
Laminate - 1 Strip

6 Designs Available
Design Featured: Chelsea



cleaning tip

A professional 'deep' or restorative cleaning treatment once every 12-18 months will protect your polypropylene carpet and enhance its beauty for years to come.

Eternity Inception - Greenway $

Advanced Technology Polypropylene Twist

8 Colours Available

Colour Featured: Pitman



DISTINCTIVE **STYLE**

Influenced by the distinctive patterns and textures of timber, our exclusive Genero Design Platinum luxury vinyl flooring provides inspirational designs for your space.

ONLY AVAILABLE AT **CHOICES FLOORING**

GENERO design platinum

Genero Design Platinum
Luxury Vinyl Plank

8 Design Available
Design Featured: Antique Gum

playroom

$ **Haven - Saras**
Polypropylene Textured

7 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Fallow



Kate Sparks
Founder & Owner, *Little Dwellings*
littledwellings.com.au



When it comes to decorating playrooms, it's all about creating a space that is fun, educational and suits your personal style.

The first step is selecting your flooring, as this will help you gain a better understanding of your design brief for the whole space. When deciding on your flooring think about what type of things your children will be doing in the room, for example, playing, drawing/craft, dancing, watching movies, eating etc. So it's important to select a flooring solution that is 'mess friendly': easy to clean, stain resistant and something that can deal with everyday wear & tear, without ageing quickly. I personally love floorboards with a large comfy rug for a cosy atmosphere.

When thinking about the walls of children's spaces, people often think 'bright' & 'cheerful' colours, similar to what you may have seen at childcare centres: these colours are not necessary to create a bright & cheerful atmosphere, especially in a space that they are going to spend much of their time in over the years. Modern children's interior spaces should be a representation of what the rest of the home looks like, ensuring the continuity runs nicely throughout the whole house. Don't fear 'adult tones' in children's spaces as when the full room is in place the wall colour will blend nicely into its design. This also allows your eye to be drawn to the child specific items in the room. For example, continuing a nice grey tone through to the playroom will allow a beautiful print or chair to be the focus, rather than an over-stimulating colour.

I believe lighting is also a very important aspect of any room design and flexibility is a must! As playrooms will most likely be used at all times of the day and possibly night, consider having dimmers on the main lights in the room for when the kids are watching movies but still want the lights on, or dark and rainy days when lighting might be dull. I love child friendly lamps and highly recommend including one that is non-breakable, doesn't get hot if touched & something that can be accessed to add extra lighting for reading or drawing. There are so many great children's lamps out there these days; it's sometimes hard to pick which one, so if you can't decide why not go for two!

The final consideration is room layout and this is where most people freak out and think "I have no idea where to put things!" Well fear not because... you do! Take a step back, look at the space as a whole & think about 'areas' or 'zones'. Then ask yourself these questions:

What existing furniture am I going to use?
What furniture do I need to buy?
What items do I want to put in there?
What toys need space?
What gets packed away & what stays out?
What gets used all the time?

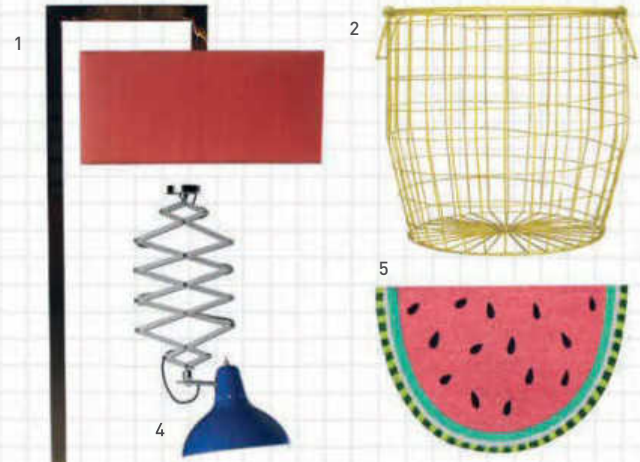
Answering these questions will take the stress out of planning your room layout. Remember, trial and error is okay, what works for your family now might not work for you in the future, so be forward thinking and flexible in whatever you do. Rotating toys or changing the layout every now and then can create a new sense of adventure, promote resilience and foster creative and lateral thinking.



PLAY TIME
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to see a playroom the kids will love.

See **page 99** for product details

the LOOK BOOK



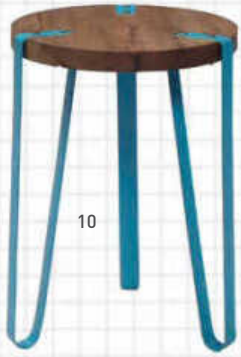
















1. Ann Floor Lamp - bocadolobo.com **2.** Wire Basket Yellow - vavoom.com.au **3.** Solvej Swing - solvejswings.com **4.** Diana Suspension Lamp - delightfull.eu **5.** Watermelon Doormat - downthatlittlelane.com.au **6.** Factory Desk - Bold Red - vavoom.com.au **7.** Toy Soldier Bookends - navycrockett.com.au **8.** Toy Fruit Chopping Set - woodenwonderland.com.au **9.** The Zoo - Soft toy storage solution - littlezookeepers.co.uk **10.** Amalfi Verse Stool - amalfihomewares.com.au **11.** Zebra Skater Art Print by Ashley Percival - endemicworld.com **12.** Blue Geometric Cushion Cover - andshine.co.uk **13.** Woouf Bean Bag - Yummy Chocolate - iworldonline.com.au

Choices Flooring
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$ **Haven - Charlo**
Polypropylene Textured

7 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Radiant

eco+ - Autumn Retreat $$
Triexta Twist

10 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Forest Floor

cleaning tip

After a gentle sweep or vacuum, add 50ml of approved luxury vinyl flooring cleaner to approximately 8 – 10L of cold or warm water and mop, removing any excess water before allowing the floors to dry.

Genero Looselay $$$
Luxury Vinyl Plank - Wide Board (229mm)

11 Designs Available
Design Featured: Sandpaper Oak



$$$

Temuka - Aspiring
Wool Plush

24 Colours Available
Colour Featured: Roxburgh



outdoor

See **page 106** for rug details

$$

Toscana
External Tile - Porcelain

450mm x 450mm
Colour Featured: Terracotta



Clare Hillier
Editor and Creator, *Checks and Spots*
checksandspots.com

Whether you have a small courtyard or big backyard, these easy decorating tips will help you create your very own outdoor escape.

To create a space that feels inviting, carry all the comfort and style of your indoor rooms through to the outdoors. Not only will this give you a visual connection between the two, but it also makes the most of your home's space by creating an extra 'room'.

For those that would like a summer vibe year-round, have fun and play with a bright palette of punchy hues.

Durable and easy to care for, tiles make a great choice for outdoor entertaining areas. To anchor your space team a specially designed outdoor rug with your outdoor tiles. Make sure you don't skimp on size though, otherwise your space will look smaller. Instead, choose a rug that is large enough to accommodate dining chairs that are pulled out.

Lighting is one of the easiest ways to create an enchanting outdoor space. Keep in mind that it's better to have multiple low-level lights rather than a single, bright bulb that can 'blind' the eyes.

When choosing outdoor furniture look for tables, chairs and sun lounges that are built to last outdoors and are as flexible as your lifestyle. The best pieces encourage togetherness by being easy to move around and create alternate seating. Also, keep large pieces of furniture visually light so they don't overpower your garden view.

Pillows and cushions can help soften the great outdoors and create a spot where you'll want to linger. If you plan on leaving them outside, look for cushions in fabric that is fade and water resistant.

Last, but by no means least, choose pots with strong lines that show off the plant, rather than the container. And for visual harmony, group pots in similar shapes, but different sizes.



See **page 105** for product details

the LOOK BOOK


1


2


3


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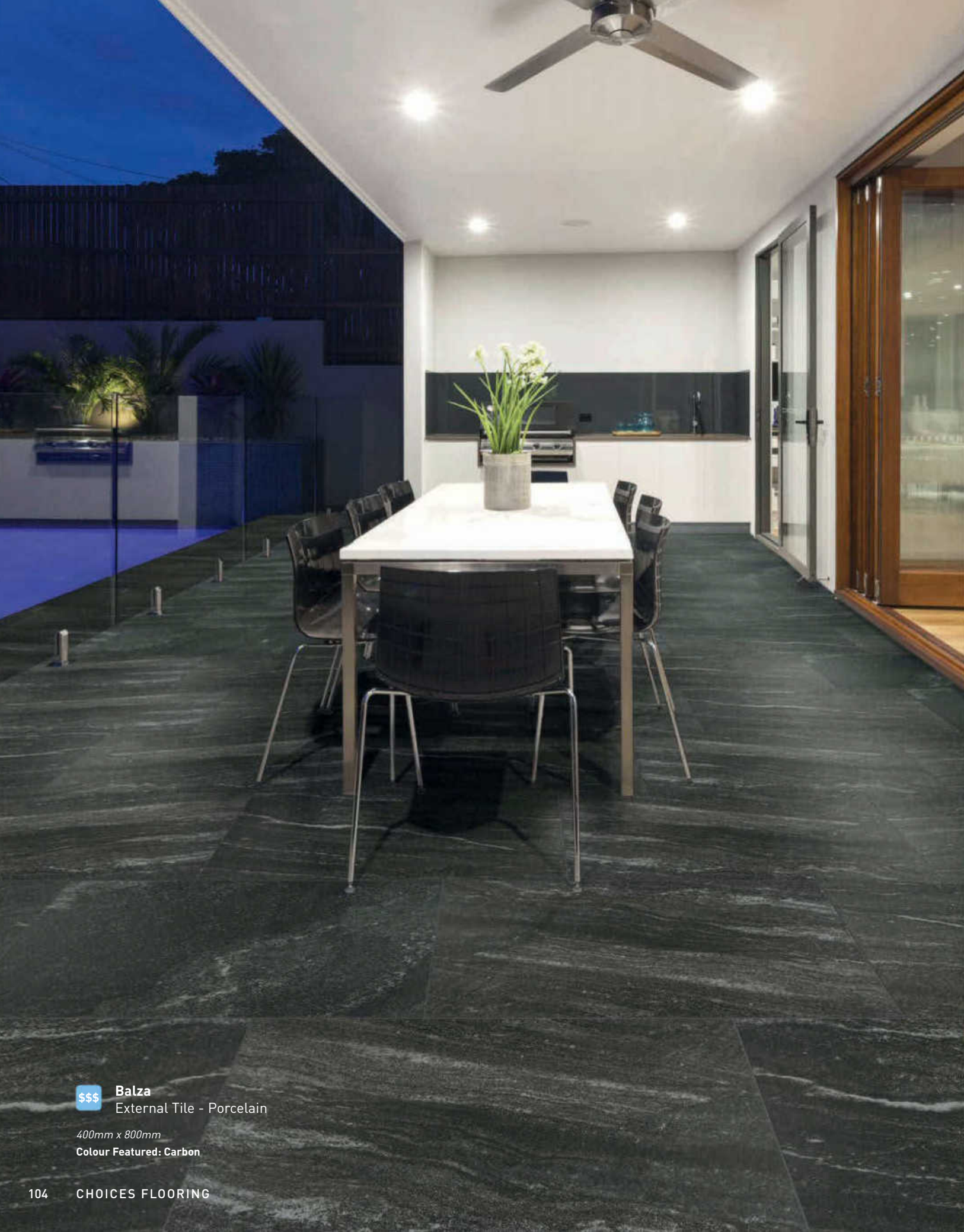

9


11


12

1. Kobo Modular Living Set - wintonsteak.com **2.** Marrakesh Tile Outdoor Side Table Black - ecochic.com.au **3.** Orange Tulips Retro Cushion - in-spaces.com **4.** Pot Shell - hotel4home.com **5.** Rogue Lux Pot - albi.com.au **6.** Rogue Mini Column Cacti-Dipped Pot - albi.com.au **7.** ACA Stool Turquoise And Orange Black Legs - vivalafranki.com.au **8.** Lotus Metal Lantern Set - idecorateshop.com **9.** Moroccan Patterned Plates - savvyshophomewares.com.au **10.** Rustic Milk Pot - zanui.com.au **11.** Amalfi Seville Cushion - amalfihomewares.com.au **12.** Plant Pot - vivalafranki.com.au

Choices Flooring
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$$$

Balza
External Tile - Porcelain

400mm x 800mm
Colour Featured: Carbon

Durango $$$
External Tile - Porcelain

610mm x 610mm

Colour Featured: Washed



See **page 106** for rug details

Block $$$
External Tile - Porcelain

300mm x 600mm

Colours Featured: Bianco (border) & Grigio



Rugs are a popular complementary flooring solution for defining spaces in open plan living areas and seasonally changing the look of any space. With an array of colours, designs and textures, at Choices Flooring, we'll help you find the rug you've been searching for.

Featured on page 11



$$

Argentina
Polypropylene

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Morrocco

Featured on page 14



$$

Argentina
Polypropylene

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Fiesta

Featured on page 17



$$$

Modern Berber
Wool

170cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Hotham

Featured on page 26



$$$

Soul
Wool & Viscose

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Silk Worm

Featured on page 27



$$$

Wentworth
Wool

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Putty

Featured on page 31



$$

Brazil
Wool

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Atlantic Blue

Featured on page 51



$$

Evolve
Wool

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Black

Featured on page 66



$$$

Ivy
Wool

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Cream Fog

Featured on page 73



$$

Volume
Wool

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Sweet Orange

Featured on page 92



$$$

Soul
Wool & Viscose

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Carbon

Featured on page 101



$

Jardin
Polypropylene

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Bleu

Featured on page 105



$$

ODR
Polyester

160cm x 230cm

Colour Featured: Waves Natural



about

Choices Flooring

Like many modern success stories, the Choices Flooring Group can be traced back to humble beginnings.

Early in 1959, a small group of independent Victorian furniture retailers met to discuss the possibility of forming an association to maximise the effectiveness of their business in the face of increased competition from large, franchised organisations.

As a result of this initial meeting, Newfurn Floor Coverings Ltd was formed. Thirty four years later in 1993, they launched the Carpet Choice brand with 17 stores in Victoria.

Since then, after a further brand update, Choices Flooring has rapidly grown to include over 140 stores across Australia, arguably becoming Australia's most progressive retail floor coverings group and a major force in the Australian retail sector.

To find out more about Choices Flooring visit **choicesflooring.com.au**

JOIN THE CHOICES FLOORING ONLINE COMMUNITY.



Terms & Conditions

A majority of products featured in this magazine carry Guarantees and Warranties, see **choicesflooring.com.au** for more details. Actual colour samples shown may vary due to the printing process. Selected products may not be on display at some stores, but can be ordered from all stores (except tiles). Refer to page 108 or **choicesflooring.com.au** for tile stockists. Featured products available until sold out or discontinued from the manufacturer. Tiles featured are for domestic use only and images are shown only for illustrative purposes. Pile reversal shading can occur on some carpets and is an optical effect, showing an apparent colour difference caused by light reflected or absorbed from disturbed carpet pile. When caused by foot traffic and vacuuming, pile reversal shading is temporary. Watermarking (also known as permanent pile reversal shading) can appear in some carpets as irregular shaped light and dark patches. Sometimes unpredictable, it is not a change in colour, but a change in pile direction that randomly appears, generally after use. Nested/random lengths of hard flooring can occur and affect panel sizes and box quantity. Pricing ranges featured in this magazine range from good quality ($) to better quality ($$) to best quality ($$$) and are based on the product only. Pricing ranges do not include installation, freight, or any extra services offered by some Choices Flooring stores, as such they are to be used as a guide only. Pricing for same product may vary from store to store. Prices may also vary in regional and rural areas due to freight to location. For more information on pricing see the inside cover of this magazine and visit **choicesflooring.com.au**. Cleaning and care tips featured throughout this magazine are to be used as a guide only and no liability will be held by Choices Flooring, their manufacturers', stores, or associates for any damage caused to your flooring. For more care and maintenance advice download the brochure at **choicesflooring.com.au**. All information within this magazine was correct at time of printing – October 2015. STAINMASTER® and EverSoft® are registered trademarks of INVISTA. All props featured within this magazine are for demonstration purposes only and are not available for sale from Choices Flooring stores. For full terms and conditions visit **choicesflooring.com.au**

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your choices

TILE STOCKISTS | inspiration station NOW IN-STORE

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Mitchell	(02) 6241 9555

NSW

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Albury	(02) 6042 4828
Alexandria	(02) 9319 0551
Armidale	(02) 6772 7999
Balgowlah	(02) 9907 9077
Batemans Bay	(02) 4472 7001
Bathurst	(02) 6331 4866
Blacktown	(02) 9671 1800
Byron Bay	(02) 6685 5503
Caringbah	(02) 9524 3755
Castle Hill	(02) 9680 1340
Coffs Harbour	(02) 6652 2473
Dubbo	(02) 6885 3397
Erina	(02) 4367 7329
Fairy Meadow	(02) 4225 0900
Forster	(02) 6555 5334
Griffith	(02) 6964 4111
Heatherbrae	(02) 4983 1883
Hornsby	(02) 9477 3857
Kotara	(02) 4952 1835
Mittagong	(02) 4872 2158
Narellan	(02) 4647 2888
North Bega	(02) 6492 4496
North Parramatta	(02) 9683 7749
North Richmond	(02) 4571 2300
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Tamworth	(02) 6765 5513
Taylors Beach	(02) 4982 2522
Tuggerah	(02) 4351 1550
Wagga Wagga	(02) 6931 9500
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Young	(02) 6382 3991

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Winnellie	(08) 8984 3402

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Alderley	(07) 3354 1544
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Bundall	(07) 5561 0355
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Karratha	(08) 9144 2226
Mandurah	(08) 9535 5660
Margaret River	(08) 9758 8348
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Morley	(08) 9276 5310
Myaree	(08) 9330 6001
Northam	(08) 9622 1154
Osborne Park	(08) 9444 9955
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